

Psalms 54:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For strangers are risen up against me, and oppressors seek after my soul: they have not set God before them. Selah.

Analysis

The accusation: 'For strangers are risen up against me, and oppressors seek after my soul: they have not set God before them.' The Ziphites, David's own countrymen, act like 'strangers'--alien enemies. 'Seeking his soul' means seeking his life. The root problem: 'they have not set God before them'--ignoring divine oversight.

Historical Context

The Ziphites were from David's own tribe of Judah, making their betrayal particularly bitter. They acted as 'strangers' by betraying tribal loyalty for Saul's favor.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How can people from our own community act as 'strangers' against us?
2. What does 'not setting God before them' mean practically?

Interlinear Text

בְּקָשׁ	וְ	עֲרֵזִים	לְ	מַעַל	לְ	מַעַל	לְ	יִמְעַל	לְ			
H3588	For	strangers	are	risen	up	H5921	against	me	and	oppressors	seek	
	H2114		H6965				H6184			H1245		
סָלָה:	לְנַגְּדָה	מְ	אֱלֹהִים	שְׁ	מַעַל	לְ	אֶ	נַפְשִׁ	וְ			
after	my	soul	H3808	they	have	not	set	God	H5048	before	them	Selah
H5315			H7760					H430		H5542		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 86:14 (Resurrection): O God, the proud are risen against me, and the assemblies of violent men have sought after my soul; and have not set thee before them.

Psalms 36:1 (References God): The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.

Psalms 53:4 (References God): Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread: they have not called upon God.

Psalms 16:8 (Parallel theme): I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Psalms 40:14 (Parallel theme): Let them be ashamed and confounded together that seek after my soul to destroy it; let them be driven backward and put to shame that wish me evil.

John 16:3 (Parallel theme): And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.