

# Psalm 55:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me.

## Analysis

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The Hebrew 'pachad' (fear/terror) and 'ra'ad' (trembling) reveal David's visceral response to betrayal. This prophetically anticipates Christ's anguish in Gethsemane, where divine sovereignty met human vulnerability. The parallel in Psalm 22 and Christ's Passion demonstrates how God's elect experience genuine emotional suffering while remaining under divine providence.

## Historical Context

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Written during Absalom's rebellion or Ahithophel's betrayal (2 Samuel 15-17), when David faced both political crisis and personal treachery. The psalm's superscription indicates it was set to Nehiloth, possibly wind instruments, for public worship.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

1. How does acknowledging fear before God differ from being overcome by it?
2. In what ways does Christ's experience of anguish validate your own emotional struggles?

## Interlinear Text

פֶּלֶץ־הַמִּזְרָחָה יָרָא הַיּוֹם בְּבֵין בְּרֵעָה וְבְאַתָּה  
Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me and horror  
H3374 H7461 H935 H0 H3680 H6427

## Additional Cross-References

**Psalms 119:120** (Parallel theme): My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.

**Job 21:6** (Parallel theme): Even when I remember I am afraid, and trembling taketh hold on my flesh.

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