

Psalms 55:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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

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

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

יִרְאַ ה	וִרְעַד	בָּא	בִּי	וַתִּכֶּסְנִי	פְּלִצּוֹת:
Fearfulness	and trembling	are come	H0	hath overwhelmed	upon me and horror
H3374	H7461	H935		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.