

Psalm 55:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest.

Analysis

David's longing for escape reveals the human temptation to flee rather than endure suffering. Yet God's sovereignty ordains that believers remain to fulfill their calling. The 'dove' imagery connects to Israel's identity (Hosea 7:11) and anticipates the Holy Spirit's gentle presence, offering rest within trials rather than escape from them.

Historical Context

The dove was a symbol of peace and innocence in ancient Near Eastern culture. David, having lived as a fugitive in the wilderness, knew firsthand the allure of solitary refuge from political turmoil.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. When has the desire for escape revealed areas where you need to trust God's purposes in suffering?
2. How does the promise of Sabbath rest in Christ differ from escapism?

Interlinear Text

רָאָמָן יְאָמָן
And I said H4310 Oh that H5414 I had wings H83 like a dove H3123 for then would I fly away H5774

אָשָׁכְנָה:

and be at rest

H7931

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 11:1 (Parallel theme): In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?

Revelation 12:14 (Parallel theme): And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Psalms 139:9 (Parallel theme): If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

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