

Psalms 55:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues: for I have seen violence and strife in the city.

Analysis

David's imprecatory prayer for divine confusion of enemies recalls the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:7-9) and anticipates God's judgment on the wicked. Reformed theology affirms that such prayers, when offered in righteousness, align with God's justice. The 'violence and strife' David witnessed in Jerusalem prefigure the city's eventual judgment for rejecting Christ.

Historical Context

The reference to seeing 'violence and strife in the city' likely refers to Jerusalem during Absalom's coup, where civil war divided the nation. Ancient cities depended on internal unity for survival against external threats.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How can you pray for justice while maintaining love for enemies as Christ commanded?

2. What does God's eventual judgment on wickedness reveal about His character and kingdom?

Interlinear Text

בִּלְע	אֵלֹהֵי	פָּלַג	לְשׁוֹנָם	כִּי	רָאִיתִי	חַמַּס
Destroy	O Lord	and divide	their tongues	H3588	for I have seen	violence
H1104	H136	H6385	H3956		H7200	H2555

וְיָב	בְּעִיר:
and strife	in the city
H7379	H5892

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 6:7 (Parallel theme): As a fountain casteth out her waters, so she casteth out her wickedness: violence and spoil is heard in her; before me continually is grief and wounds.