

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

Psalm 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

כַּא	יְהִי	בְּלֹא	כְּלֹא	דְּבָרִים	פְּלַגָּה	לְשׁוֹנָה	מִ	כִּי	בְּאַתְּ	יְהִי	בְּלֹא	כְּמַה	סִ
Destroy	O Lord	and divide		their tongues				H3588	for I have seen			violence	
H1104	H136	H6385		H3956					H7200			H2555	
בְּבָבְעִירָה:	וְיִבְשְׂרָה:												
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.

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