

Psalms 56:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Mine enemies would daily swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me, O thou most High.

Analysis

The persistent hostility ('daily') reveals that opposition to God's elect is unrelenting in this fallen world. Yet the Hebrew 'saraph' (pant/long for) describes enemies' intensity, implying their zeal achieves nothing against God's protection. 'Many' emphasizes the multitude of opposition, anticipating Christ's words that believers will face hatred from all nations (Matthew 24:9).

Historical Context

David faced continuous persecution from Saul's agents, then from Philistine suspicion, showing the righteous often find no earthly refuge. The intensity of this pursuit tested David's faith in God's covenant promises regarding his future kingship.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that persecution is normative for believers affect your response to opposition?

2. What sustains faith when enemies seem more numerous and powerful than your defenders?

Interlinear Text

שָׂאֵפּוּ	שׁ וְרֵבִי	כָּל	הֵי יוֹם	כִּי	רַב יָם
swallow	Mine enemies	H3605	would daily	H3588	me up for they be many
H7602	H8324		H3117		H7227
לִּי	לְחֹמֵי יָם	מִקּוֹם:			
that fight	H0	against me O thou most High			
H3898		H4791			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 57:3 (Parallel theme): He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth.

Revelation 16:14 (Parallel theme): For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Isaiah 57:15 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Psalms 54:5 (Parallel theme): He shall reward evil unto mine enemies: cut them off in thy truth.

Psalms 3:1 (Parallel theme): LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me.

Psalms 91:1 (Parallel theme): He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalms 35:1 (Parallel theme): Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me.

Psalms 92:8 (Parallel theme): But thou, LORD, art most high for evermore.

Psalms 92:1 (Parallel theme): It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

Psalms 93:4 (Parallel theme): The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea.

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