

Psalms 56:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul.

Analysis

The enemies' tactics—gathering, hiding, marking steps—reveal coordinated, deliberate persecution. 'They wait for my soul' indicates their murderous intent. Yet David's recounting of these details to God demonstrates confidence that omniscience sees all plots. Nothing escapes divine notice, ensuring that persecution serves God's sovereign purposes despite appearing random or unjust.

Historical Context

This describes the methods of ancient assassination plots and military surveillance. David experienced both Saul's attempts on his life (1 Samuel 19:11) and Philistine monitoring of his movements (1 Samuel 21:11), making constant vigilance necessary for survival.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's omniscience comfort you when facing hidden enemies or unseen opposition?

2. What does God's detailed knowledge of persecution reveal about His care for the persecuted?

Interlinear Text

וְרֽוּחַ	יְצַפֵּן	בְּפָה	בְּעִקָּב	רֹא	שְׁמָרָה
They gather themselves together	they hide	H1992	my steps	themselves they mark	
H1481	H6845		H6119		H8104
רֹא	בְּפָה	תְּפִשָּׁה	בְּעִקָּב	רֹא	שְׁמָרָה
when they wait	for my soul	H6960	H5315		
H834					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 71:10 (Parallel theme): For mine enemies speak against me; and they that lay wait for my soul take counsel together,

Psalms 59:3 (Parallel theme): For, lo, they lie in wait for my soul: the mighty are gathered against me; not for my transgression, nor for my sin, O LORD.

Psalms 140:2 (Parallel theme): Which imagine mischiefs in their heart; continually are they gathered together for war.

Luke 20:20 (Parallel theme): And they watched him, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor.