

Psalms 56:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.

Analysis

David's confidence that enemies will turn back 'when I cry unto thee' reveals the power of prayer. 'This I know; for God is for me' is declarative faith—not presumption but covenant confidence. The Hebrew 'li' (for me) indicates God's partisan commitment to His elect, fulfilled ultimately in Romans 8:31: 'If God be for us, who can be against us?'

Historical Context

David's experience repeatedly confirmed that calling on God brought deliverance, from his victory over Goliath (1 Samuel 17:45) to escapes from Saul's pursuit. This psalm crystallizes cumulative evidence of God's covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does past evidence of God's faithfulness strengthen present faith?
2. What does 'God is for me' mean in the context of suffering rather than prosperity?

Interlinear Text

אָז	וְשׁוּבוּ	אֵלַי	וְאֵלֵי	אֹיְבֵי	אֶחָד	אֶחָד	אֶחָד
H227	turn	unto thee	then shall	mine enemies	back	When	I cry
	H7725			H341	H268	H3117	H7121
זֶה	אֲנִי	אֵלֹהִים	לִי	כִּי	אֵלֹהִים	לִי	לִי
H2088	this I know	H3588	for God	H0			
	H3045		H430				

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:31 (References God): What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Psalms 46:11 (References God): The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Psalms 102:2 (Parallel theme): Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me: in the day when I call answer me speedily.

Psalms 118:6 (Parallel theme): The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

Psalms 46:7 (References God): The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Jeremiah 33:3 (Parallel theme): Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Psalms 9:3 (Parallel theme): When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence.

John 18:6 (Parallel theme): As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.

Psalms 27:2 (Parallel theme): When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

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