

Psalm 57:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.

Analysis

The imagery of dwelling 'among them that are set on fire' uses the metaphor of lions and beasts of prey with incendiary weapons. This hyperbolic language captures the intensity of opposition while demonstrating that God preserves His elect even in the furnace. The Hebrew 'lahat' (flame/burn) connects to Daniel's fiery furnace, showing God's presence in, not removal from, extremity.

Historical Context

Lions were literal threats in ancient Palestine's wilderness, making this imagery vivid. The metaphorical extension to human enemies emphasizes their predatory and destructive nature, particularly Saul's relentless pursuit of David.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's preservation in the midst of danger differ from deliverance out of it?

2. What does it mean that the righteous may be 'set on fire' yet not consumed?

Interlinear Text

לְפָנֶיךָ יְמִינָה אֲשֶׁר־הָיָה לְבָאָמָן בַּת־וְגַם נְפָשָׁה
My soul is among lions and I lie even among them that are set on fire

בְּנֵי אָדָם שְׁנִירָם חֲנִית שְׁנִירָם וְחַצְאָם אֶל־שְׁנִירָם
even the sons of men whose teeth are spears and arrows and their tongue

מִזְרָחָה כְּבָשָׂר
sword a sharp

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 58:6 (Parallel theme): Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD.

Psalms 35:17 (Parallel theme): Lord, how long wilt thou look on? rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions.

Psalms 55:21 (Word): The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.

Proverbs 30:14 (Word): There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

Psalms 64:3 (Word): Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words:

Proverbs 12:18 (Word): There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

Psalms 52:2 (Parallel theme): Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.

