

Psalms 57:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah.

Analysis

The image of enemies falling into their own pit demonstrates the principle of lex talionis (law of retribution) operating under divine providence. Proverbs repeatedly affirms this pattern (Proverbs 26:27), fulfilled paradigmatically in Haman's hanging on his own gallows (Esther 7:10). This reveals God's poetic justice—the wicked's schemes rebound upon themselves.

Historical Context

Ancient warfare involved literal pits and snares to trap enemies. David's experience included evading Saul's traps and seeing Saul repeatedly endangered by his own schemes (e.g., Saul endangered by Philistines while pursuing David, 1 Samuel 23:27-28).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How have you witnessed the principle of wickedness rebounding on the wicked?
2. What does God's justice operating through natural consequences reveal about moral order?

Interlinear Text

בְּשַׁת	הַכִּי	לִפְעָמִי	כַּפְרִי	לְפָשָׁעִי
a net	They have prepared	for my steps	is bowed down	my soul
H7568	H3559	H6471	H3721	H5315
בַּתְּזַחַת	נִפְלָא	שִׁיחַת	לִפְנֵי	כֶּרֶב
they have digged	before	a pit	whereof they are fallen	me into the midst
H3738	H6440	H7882	H5307	H8432
בְּלָה:				
themselves Selah				
H5542				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 145:14 (Parallel theme): The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.

Micah 7:2 (Parallel theme): The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.

Proverbs 28:10 (Parallel theme): Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good things in possession.

Psalms 140:5 (Parallel theme): The proud have hid a snare for me, and cords; they have spread a net by the wayside; they have set gins for me. Selah.

Psalms 142:3 (Parallel theme): When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me.

Proverbs 29:5 (Parallel theme): A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.

Psalms 143:4 (Parallel theme): Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate.

Psalms 42:6 (Parallel theme): O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar.

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