

Psalm 58:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let them melt away as waters which run continually: when he bendeth his bow to shoot his arrows, let them be as cut in pieces.

Analysis

The dual images of melting water and broken arrows emphasize the complete negation of the wicked's power. Water that 'runs continually away' (Hebrew 'halak'—walk/go) depicts dissipation and futility. Arrows 'cut in pieces' represents weapons rendered useless. This demonstrates God's sovereignty—He can reduce the mighty to nothing, anticipated in Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:51-53).

Historical Context

In desert environments, water's disappearance was a vivid image of vanishing hope. Broken arrows represented military defeat, as arrows were primary weapons in ancient warfare. Both images communicated total loss of power.

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 power to reduce the mighty to nothing comfort the oppressed?

2. What does the complete futility of wickedness under God's judgment reveal about history's trajectory?

Interlinear Text

לְמֹעֵד יְמָסֵב כְּמוֹ מִים יְמָסֵב יְמָסֵב
Let them melt away as waters which run continually H0

לְמֹעֵד יְמָסֵב כְּמוֹ מִים יְמָסֵב יְמָסֵב
H3988 H3644 H4325 H1980 H0

יְמָלֵל כְּמֵאָה אֶלְעָלָה כְּמֵאָה אֶלְעָלָה
let them be as cut in pieces when he bendeth his bow to shoot his arrows H4135 H3644

יְמָלֵל כְּמֵאָה אֶלְעָלָה כְּמֵאָה אֶלְעָלָה
H1869 H2671 H4135 H3644

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 112:10 (Parallel theme): The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.

Joshua 7:5 (Parallel theme): And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.

Isaiah 13:7 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:

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

Exodus 15:15 (Parallel theme): Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away.