

Psalms 59:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

David's innocence claim 'not for my transgression, nor for my sin' demonstrates that suffering isn't always punitive. The Hebrew 'pesha' (transgression/rebellion) and 'chatta'ah' (sin/missing the mark) cover all categories of offense. David faces persecution despite righteousness, prefiguring Christ who suffered 'not for his own sins' but for ours (1 Peter 2:22-24).

Historical Context

This verse addresses the false charges Saul leveled against David. Despite Jonathan's defense (1 Samuel 19:4-5) and David's proven loyalty, Saul persisted in murderous intent, demonstrating that righteousness doesn't guarantee earthly justice.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when suffering is not connected to personal sin?

2. What does Christ's undeserved suffering teach about God's purposes in allowing the righteous to suffer?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	הֵיכָה	אָרְבוּ	לִנְפֹשִׁי	אֵגְוְרוּ	עַל־י	עֲזִי־יָם
H3588	H2009	For lo they lie in wait	for my soul	are gathered	H5921	the mighty
		H693	H5315	H1481		H5794
לֹא		פֶּשַׁע־י	וְלֹא־	חַטָּאת־י	יְהוָה:	
H3808		against me not for my transgression	H3808	nor for my sin	O LORD	
		H6588		H2403	H3068	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 56:6 (Parallel theme): They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul.

Psalms 69:4 (Parallel theme): They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away.

1 Samuel 24:11 (Sin): Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

Proverbs 12:6 (Parallel theme): The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.

John 15:25 (Parallel theme): But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.

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.

Acts 23:21 (Parallel theme): But do not thou yield unto them: for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath,

that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee.

Psalms 38:12 (Parallel theme): They also that seek after my life lay snares for me: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long.

Psalms 2:2 (References Lord): The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

1 Samuel 26:18 (References Lord): And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil is in mine hand?