

# Psalms 59:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel,  
awake to visit all the heathen: be not merciful to any wicked  
transgressors. Selah.

## Analysis

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David invokes God's covenant name (YHWH) and titles (God of hosts, God of Israel) to ground his appeal in specific promises. 'Awake to visit all the heathen' broadens from personal deliverance to universal judgment. The request to not 'be merciful to any wicked transgressors' seems harsh but reflects covenant justice—persistent rebels warrant judgment.

## Historical Context

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Calling on the 'God of hosts' (armies) emphasizes God's sovereign power over earthly forces. The 'heathen' may reference Saul's men acting like pagans despite being Israelites, or anticipate David's later conflicts with surrounding nations.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How do God's covenant names inform specific prayer requests?
2. What is the relationship between praying for mercy on some and judgment on others?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאַתָּה ה	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי י	צָבָא וְת	אֱלֹהֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל
H859	<b>Thou therefore O LORD</b>	<b>God</b>	<b>of hosts</b>	<b>God</b>	<b>of Israel</b>
	H3068	H430	H6635	H430	H3478
קִץ יָצָה	לְפָקֵד ד	כָּל	הַגּוֹיִם	אֵל	תַּחֲוִי
<b>awake</b>	<b>to visit</b>	H3605	<b>all the heathen</b>	H408	<b>be not merciful</b>
H6974	H6485		H1471		H2603
בְּגֵדֵי	אֶל	סֵלָה:			
<b>transgressors</b>	<b>to any wicked</b>	<b>Selah</b>			
H898	H205	H5542			

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