

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

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

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

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

ישְׁרָאֵל אֱלֹהִים צָבָא וְאֱלֹהִים
H859 Thou therefore O LORD God of hosts God of Israel
H3068 H430 H6635 H430 H3478

כְּלָל לְפָקֵד בְּקָרְבָּן יִצְחָא
awake to visit H3605 all the heathen H408 be not merciful H3605
H6974 H6485 H1471 H2603

בְּגִידִים אֵלֶּה סֶלָה
transgressors to any wicked Selah
H898 H205 H5542

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