

Psalms 59:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They return at evening: they make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city.

Analysis

The imagery of enemies as dogs 'that return at evening' depicts scavengers emboldened by darkness. Dogs in ancient Israel were unclean scavengers, not pets, making this a degrading comparison. 'Grin' (Hebrew 'hamah'—growl/moan) captures their menacing presence. Comparing wicked men to dogs anticipates Christ's warning against giving holy things to dogs (Matthew 7:6).

Historical Context

Wild and semi-wild dogs roamed ancient cities as scavengers, becoming aggressive at night. Saul's men repeatedly watching David's movements (1 Samuel 19:11) resembled such persistent, threatening circling.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does the 'dog' imagery reveal about the nature of persistent enemies?
2. How should Christians respond to those who persistently oppose God's purposes?

Interlinear Text

יָשׁוּ וְבוֹ	לָ עֶרֶב	יִהְיֶה וְ	כִּכָּ לָב	וַיֵּס וְבֹבֹ	עִיר:
They return	at evening	they make a noise	like a dog	and go round about	the city
H7725	H6153	H1993	H3611	H5437	H5892

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 59:14 (Parallel theme): And at evening let them return; and let them make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city.

1 Samuel 19:11 (Parallel theme): Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain.