

# Psalm 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

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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

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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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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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

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עיר: יִשְׁׁבּוּ בְּבָבָל  
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

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**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.

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