

Psalm 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let all mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return and be ashamed suddenly.

Analysis

The psalm concludes with prayer for the enemies' defeat and shame. This isn't cruel gloating but desire for justice and vindication. The repetition of 'ashamed' and 'vexed' (using the same Hebrew word 'bahal' used of David's distress in verse 3) invokes poetic justice - may they experience the dismay they caused. 'Suddenly' emphasizes God's swift intervention when He acts. Such prayers are legitimate when they seek God's righteous judgment, not personal revenge, ultimately anticipating Christ's final judgment.

Historical Context

Imprecatory elements in psalms reflect covenant curses against God's enemies. David could legitimately pray this as God's anointed king whose enemies were God's enemies. The 'sudden' reversal theme appears throughout Scripture - Pharaoh, Haman, Belshazzar - showing God's sovereign ability to turn tables swiftly. Final fulfillment comes when Christ returns to shame His enemies and vindicate His people.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you pray for justice without harboring personal vengeance?
2. What does it mean to leave vengeance to the Lord while still desiring His justice?

Interlinear Text

בִּשְׁבִּיבָּשׁוּ	וְאַיִלְלָה	כִּלְכִּילָה	אַיִלְלָה	בְּשִׁבְעָה
and be ashamed	vexed	and sore	H3605	Let all mine enemies
H954	H926	H3966		H341
בִּיבָּשׁוּ	כִּילָה			לְשׁוּבָה
and be ashamed	suddenly			H7725
H954	H7281			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 86:17 (Parallel theme): Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me.

Jeremiah 20:11 (Parallel theme): But the LORD is with me as a mighty terrible one: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten.

Malachi 3:18 (Parallel theme): Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Isaiah 26:11 (Parallel theme): LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them.

Psalms 7:6 (Parallel theme): Arise, O LORD, in thine anger, lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies: and awake for me to the judgment that thou hast commanded.

Psalms 71:24 (Parallel theme): My tongue also shall talk of thy righteousness all the day long: for they are confounded, for they are brought unto shame, that seek my hurt.

Psalms 73:19 (Parallel theme): How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

Psalms 71:13 (Parallel theme): Let them be confounded and consumed that are adversaries to my soul; let them be covered with reproach and dishonour that seek my hurt.

Psalms 35:26 (Parallel theme): Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me.

Psalms 25:3 (Parallel theme): Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause.