

Psalms 60:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased; O turn thyself to us again.

Analysis

God's casting off and scattering His people seems contradictory to covenant promises, yet God's displeasure serves disciplinary purpose. The Hebrew 'parats' (scatter/break down) appears in judgment contexts but also anticipates gathering. 'O turn thyself to us again' appeals for covenant renewal, demonstrating that judgment on God's people differs from judgment on the wicked—it aims at restoration.

Historical Context

The superscription references conflicts with Aram-naharaim and Aram-zobah (2 Samuel 8:3-8), suggesting initial military setbacks before eventual victory. This shows God sometimes allows temporary defeat to humble His people before granting victory.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's disciplinary displeasure with His people differ from His wrath against the wicked?
2. What role do temporary defeats play in God's formation of His people's character?

Interlinear Text

אֱלֹהִים	זָנַחְתָּנוּ	פָּרַצְתָּנוּ	אֶנּוּ פָּתָה
O God	thou hast cast us off	thou hast scattered	us thou hast been displeased
H430	H2186	H6555	H599
תָּשׁוּבָה	לָנוּ:		
O turn thyself to us again	H0		
H7725			

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 8:3 (Parallel theme): David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his border at the river Euphrates.

2 Samuel 5:20 (Parallel theme): And David came to Baal-perazim, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baal-perazim.

1 Chronicles 18:3 (Parallel theme): And David smote Hadarezer king of Zobah unto Hamath, as he went to stablish his dominion by the river Euphrates.