

Psalm 64:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not.

Analysis

Shooting 'in secret at the perfect' reveals the cowardly nature of slander—attacking from hiding those who walk uprightly. 'Suddenly' indicates unexpected assault, and 'fear not' shows hardened conscience. The targeting of the 'perfect' (Hebrew 'tam'—complete/blameless) demonstrates that righteousness provokes hostility, anticipating persecution of the righteous (2 Timothy 3:12).

Historical Context

David's experience of unexpected attacks despite his integrity parallels Job's suffering. Both demonstrate that righteousness doesn't guarantee protection from assault but does guarantee God's ultimate vindication.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why does blameless living sometimes intensify rather than prevent opposition?
2. How should the 'suddenly' nature of attacks inform your spiritual vigilance?

Interlinear Text

וְנִזְבְּחֵנּוּ	בְּמִסְתָּרֵם	מִתְּמַמָּן	פָּתָחָה	וְנִזְבְּחֵנּוּ
That they may shoot	in secret	at the perfect	suddenly	That they may shoot
H3384	H4565	H8535	H6597	H3384
וְלֹא יִירְאֶה				
H3808	at him and fear			
	H3372			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 55:19 (Parallel theme): God shall hear, and afflict them, even he that abideth of old. Selah. Because they have no changes, therefore they fear not God.

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