

Psalms 64:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They encourage themselves in an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privily; they say, Who shall see them?

Analysis

The wicked encouraging 'themselves in an evil matter' reveals conspiracy's self-reinforcing nature. 'Commune of laying snares privily' indicates shared plotting. Their question 'Who shall see them?' demonstrates practical atheism—assuming no divine accountability. This hubris anticipates the fool's claim 'There is no God' (Psalm 14:1).

Historical Context

The secret plotting recalls Absalom's conspiracy where he 'stole the hearts' of Israel (2 Samuel 15:6) through private conversations undermining David. Such covert operations depend on assuming God doesn't observe.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the wicked's mutual encouragement in evil parallel or parody believers' mutual encouragement in good?
2. What does the assumption 'Who shall see?' reveal about the importance of God's omniscience?

Interlinear Text

לִבְנֵי	לְתָרְן	בְּעֵבֶר	בְּעֵבֶר	לִבְנֵי	לִבְנֵי
They encourage	H0	matter	themselves in an evil	they commune	of laying
H2388		H1697	H7451	H5608	H2934
סָרָבָן	מִרְאָה	מִרְאָה	מִרְאָה	לְמַן	לְמַן
snares	they say	H4310	Who shall see	H0	
H4170	H559		H7200		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 140:5 (Parallel theme): The proud have hid a snare for me, and cords; they have spread a net by the wayside; they have set gins for me. Selah.

Psalms 10:11 (Parallel theme): He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see it.