

Psalm 68:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That thy foot may be dipped in the blood of thine enemies,
and the tongue of thy dogs in the same.

Analysis

The graphic imagery of feet dipped in blood and dogs licking enemies' blood depicts complete military victory. While unsettling, this language emphasizes total triumph over evil. In ancient warfare, such imagery signified decisive, irreversible defeat. Spiritually, it points to Christ's absolute victory over sin, death, and Satan—a victory so complete that His enemies are made His footstool (Psalm 110:1, Hebrews 10:13).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern warfare included such graphic victory imagery. While disturbing to modern readers, it honestly portrayed the stakes of conflict between God's kingdom and evil powers opposing Him.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do you reconcile God's love and mercy with His fierce judgment on unrepentant evil?

2. What does complete victory over spiritual enemies look like in your daily life?
3. How does Christ's decisive triumph over Satan encourage you in ongoing spiritual struggles?

Interlinear Text

כָּלְבָּיְבָּסְלָעָןְלָשׁוֹןְבָּדָםְבָּגָלָבְתָּמָםְזָמָןְלָמָעָןְ
H4616 may be dipped H4272 That thy foot H7272 in the blood H1818 and the tongue H3956 of thy dogs H3611
מִנְהָהָןְמַאֲכָלְיָםְ
of thine enemies H4480 H341

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 58:10 (Blood): The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.

1 Kings 21:19 (Blood): And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.

1 Kings 22:38 (Blood): And one washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood; and they washed his armour; according unto the word of the LORD which he spake.