

Psalms 7:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If I have rewarded evil unto him that was at peace with me;
(yea, I have delivered him that without cause is mine enemy:)

Analysis

David continues his oath of innocence, specifically denying returning evil for good and affirming he spared his enemy. The parenthetical statement 'I have delivered him that without cause is mine enemy' likely refers to David sparing Saul's life (1 Samuel 24, 26). This demonstrates Christ-like love of enemies and refusal to take personal vengeance. Romans 12:17-21 commands the same principle. David's restraint when he had power to destroy his enemy proved his righteousness and foreshadowed Christ's refusal to call down legions of angels.

Historical Context

David's sparing of Saul when he had opportunity to kill him was unprecedented in ancient warfare. Kings normally eliminated rivals immediately. David's mercy demonstrated covenant faithfulness and trust in God's timing for establishing his kingship. This became the paradigm for how God's people should treat enemies.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Have you repaid good for evil when you had opportunity for revenge?
2. How does David's example of sparing enemies challenge your treatment of those who oppose you?

Interlinear Text

אִם	גַּם מִלְתִּי	שְׁוֹלֵם י	בְּ ע
H518	If I have rewarded	unto him that was at peace	evil
	H1580	H7999	H7451
	וְאֶמְלֶצֶה	צֹרֶרִי י	רִיקָם:
	with me (yea I have delivered	is mine enemy	him that without cause
	H2502	H6887	H7387

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 24:7 (Parallel theme): So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way.

Psalms 109:5 (Evil): And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love.

Psalms 55:20 (Peace): He hath put forth his hands against such as be at peace with him: he hath broken his covenant.

Proverbs 17:3 (Parallel theme): The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.

Genesis 44:4 (Evil): And when they were gone out of the city, and not yet far off, Joseph said unto his steward, Up, follow after the men; and when thou dost overtake them, say unto them, Wherefore have ye rewarded evil for good?

1 Samuel 20:1 (Parallel theme): And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, What have I done? what is mine iniquity? and what is my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life?

1 Samuel 22:14 (Parallel theme): Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house?

1 Samuel 26:24 (Parallel theme): And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation.

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