

Psalms 7:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let the enemy persecute my soul, and take it; yea, let him tread down my life upon the earth, and lay mine honour in the dust. Selah.

Analysis

The oath continues with severe self-imprecation: if guilty, may the enemy prevail completely. 'Tread down my life upon the earth' suggests being trampled, while 'lay mine honour in the dust' means total humiliation. 'Selah' marks a pause to contemplate this serious oath. This shows David's confidence in his innocence regarding these specific charges. Such oaths were binding and dangerous - one didn't make them lightly. The principle teaches that integrity allows confident appeals to God's judgment.

Historical Context

Such imprecatory self-curses were common in ancient legal contexts, functioning like modern sworn testimony. David's willingness to invoke severe consequences if lying demonstrates his confidence. This reflects biblical teaching that God's people should have such clear consciences that they can confidently appeal to His judgment (1 John 3:21-22).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Do you live with such integrity that you could confidently appeal to God's judgment?
2. What areas of your life would you hesitate to place under such divine scrutiny?

Interlinear Text

רִנְמָה	ס	וַיְשַׁ	ג	נִפְשָׁה	וְ	אָנוּ	בָּן	וְ	יָבֵד	תְּ
persecute	Let the enemy		my soul	and take	it yea let him tread down					
H7291	H341		H5315	H5381						H7429
לֹא	כִּי	רִנְמָה	וְ	לִעְפָּר	וְ	וְ	לִשְׁכָּא	וְ	סָלָה	וְ
upon the earth	my life	mine honour	in the dust	and lay			Selah			
H776	H2416	H3519	H6083	H7931			H5542			

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