

Psalms 71:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying, God hath forsaken him: persecute and take him; for there is none to deliver him.

Analysis

Enemies conclude 'God hath forsaken him' and therefore 'persecute and take him; for there is none to deliver.' They interpret suffering as evidence of divine abandonment, emboldening their attacks. This lie—that trouble means God's absence—contradicts covenant promises. Satan used this tactic against Job. Christ's cry 'My God, why hast thou forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46) experienced true abandonment for our sake, ensuring believers are never actually forsaken (Hebrews 13:5).

Historical Context

Ancient theology often equated prosperity with divine favor and suffering with divine judgment. While Scripture teaches God disciplines His children, it rejects the idea that all suffering indicates abandonment.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you counter the lie that difficulties mean God has forsaken you?

2. What comfort comes from knowing Christ experienced true God-forsakenness so you never would be?
3. How can you encourage others who feel abandoned by God in their suffering?

Interlinear Text

אֵין כִּי ! תִּפָּשׁ וְהוּא רָדַפּ וְ
 אֵלֹהֵי יָם לֵי אָמַר עָזַב וְ
 Saying God hath forsaken him persecute and take H3588 H369
 H559 H430 H5800 H7291 H8610

 מִצִּיל:
 him for there is none to deliver
 H5337

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 7:2 (Parallel theme): Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver.

Psalms 3:2 (References God): Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. Selah.

Matthew 27:46 (References God): And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?