

Psalms 71:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.

Analysis

The plea to be delivered from 'the wicked' and 'unrighteous and cruel man' acknowledges real human threats. Yet the appeal is to God, not human allies or personal strength. The descriptors escalate: wicked (evil), unrighteous (unjust), cruel (violent)—comprehensive opposition. Believers face genuine enemies, but victory comes through divine intervention, not self-defense. Christ faced such opposition perfectly, yet committed Himself to God who judges justly (1 Peter 2:23).

Historical Context

Throughout his life, David faced wicked opponents—Saul, Absalom, surrounding nations. Each threat drove him to deeper dependence on God rather than political maneuvering or military might alone.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Who are the 'wicked and unrighteous' opposing God's work in your sphere of influence?
2. How do you balance practical wisdom in dealing with threats while trusting God as ultimate deliverer?
3. What does Christ's example of committing Himself to God teach about responding to cruel opposition?

Interlinear Text

אֵלֹהִים י	פֶּלֶטֶנִי	מִיָּד	כֶּשֶׁע	מִכַּף
me O my God	Deliver	out of the hand	of the wicked	out of the hand
H430	H6403	H3027	H7563	H3709
מֵעַוָּל	וְרוֹמֵץ:			
of the unrighteous	and cruel man			
H5765	H2556			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 17:13 (Evil): Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword: