

Psalms 74:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Arise, O God, plead thine own cause: remember how the foolish man reproacheth thee daily.

Analysis

The psalm concludes with an appeal to God's own honor: "Arise, O God, plead thine own cause" (Hebrew qumah Elohim rivah riveka). The doubling of the verb "plead" (rivah riveka) intensifies the petition—this is God's legal case, His covenant lawsuit against those who blaspheme Him. "Remember how the foolish man reproacheth thee daily" connects the enemies' mockery to God's reputation. The word "foolish" (Hebrew naval) indicates not intellectual deficiency but moral-spiritual rebellion (cf. Psalm 14:1, "The fool says in his heart there is no God"). God's glory, not merely Israel's welfare, is at stake.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern warfare was understood as conflict between national deities. When Babylon conquered Judah, pagans interpreted this as Marduk's superiority over Yahweh. The daily reproach refers to ongoing mockery from enemies who saw the temple's destruction as proof of God's weakness. This context explains why the psalmist frames his appeal around God's honor rather than just Israel's suffering.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does framing prayer around God's glory rather than your own comfort change your petitions?
2. In what ways do unbelievers today reproach God, and how should this motivate intercession?
3. What does it mean that Christ bore reproach for God's sake (Romans 15:3), and how does this fulfill Psalm 74?

Interlinear Text

קוּמָה ה	אֵל לֵהִים	רִיבָה ה	רִיבָה בָּ	זְכֹר	חִרְפָּתְךָ	מִנִּי
Arise	O God	plead	thine own cause	remember	reproacheth	H4480
H6965	H430	H7378	H7379	H2142	H2781	
נָבִי ל	כָּל	הַיּוֹם:				
how the foolish man	H3605	thee daily				
H5036		H3117				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 74:18 (Parallel theme): Remember this, that the enemy hath reproached, O LORD, and that the foolish people have blasphemed thy name.

Isaiah 52:5 (Parallel theme): Now therefore, what have I here, saith the LORD, that my people is taken away for nought? they that rule over them make them to howl, saith the LORD; and my name continually every day is blasphemed.

Psalms 53:1 (References God): The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.