

Psalms 76:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There brake he the arrows of the bow, the shield, and the sword, and the battle. Selah.

Analysis

The psalm celebrates Jerusalem's security: "In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion" (Hebrew va-y-hi v-Shalem sukko u-m-onato v-Tzion). "Salem" is poetic for Jerusalem (Genesis 14:18), meaning "peace." "Tabernacle" (Hebrew sukkah) and "dwelling place" (Hebrew me-onah) emphasize God's choice to dwell among His people. God's presence makes Zion secure—not walls, armies, or geography, but divine habitation. This anticipates John 1:14, Christ "tabernacled" among us.

Historical Context

God chose Jerusalem as His dwelling place under David and Solomon (2 Samuel 7, 1 Kings 8). This election made Jerusalem theoretically impregnable—God wouldn't let His house fall. Yet Israel's sin eventually nullified this protection (Jeremiah 7:4-15, Ezekiel 10-11). The true security was always conditional on covenant faithfulness. Christ becomes the ultimate temple where God dwells permanently (John 2:19-21).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's presence provide security that no physical fortress can match?
2. In what ways do Christians wrongly trust religious institutions or traditions rather than God's actual presence?
3. How does Christ as the true temple guarantee permanent divine presence with believers (Matthew 28:20)?

Interlinear Text

וְיָבֹרְךָ יְהֹוָה שְׁמְךָ רְאֵב שְׁמַת
H8033 There brake H7665 H7565 H7198 H4043 H2719
the shield and the sword

סֶלָה: וּמְלֹתָם ה
and the battle Selah
H4421 H5542

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 46:9 (Parallel theme): He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.

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