

Psalms 78:66

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he smote his enemies in the hinder parts: he put them to a perpetual reproach.

Analysis

And he smote his enemies in the hinder parts: he put them to a perpetual reproach. God's awakening (v. 65) immediately produces enemy defeat. **Smote his enemies in the hinder parts** (vayakh tzarav achor, וַיַּאֲחֹזֶר) could mean striking them from behind (routing them in retreat) or afflicting their buttocks/rear (the specific location of Philistine tumors, 1 Samuel 5:6-12). Both readings emphasize humiliating defeat.

Perpetual reproach (cherpat olam, חֶרְפַּת עוֹלָם) means lasting shame. The Philistines' confidence in capturing Yahweh's ark turned to terror and disgrace. Their god Dagon fell prostrate before the ark; they suffered plagues; they desperately sent the ark back with guilt offerings. What seemed like their triumph became their enduring humiliation.

This pattern—enemies' apparent victory becoming their shame—recurs throughout redemptive history, culminating in the cross. Satan's seeming triumph in crucifying Jesus became his ultimate defeat. God specializes in turning enemies' weapons against them, making their attacks boomerang into their own destruction (Psalm 7:15-16).

Historical Context

The hemorrhoids/tumors afflicting Philistines (1 Samuel 5:6, 9, 12) caused such agony that they couldn't wait to return the ark. This judgment on paganism's

representatives vindicated Yahweh's uniqueness. The incident became proverbial—Dagon's fallen idol and Philistia's plagues demonstrated that Israel's God couldn't be manipulated or defeated.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How have you seen God turn apparent defeats into victories and enemies' weapons into their own downfall?
2. What does God's humiliation of His enemies teach about His zeal for His own name and glory?
3. In what ways did the cross function as 'perpetual reproach' to Satan and his kingdom?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּסֹּף	צָרָה יוֹ	אֶחָד וְאֶחָד	תִּקְרֹא	עַל וְעַל
And he smote	his enemies	in the hinder parts	reproach	them to a perpetual
H5221	H6862	H268	H2781	H5769

וַיִּתֵּן	לָמוֹ:
he put	H0
H5414	

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 5:6 (Parallel theme): But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, even Ashdod and the coasts thereof.

Job 40:12 (Parallel theme): Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place.

Jeremiah 23:40 (Parallel theme): And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.

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