

# Psalms 86:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O God, the proud are risen against me, and the assemblies of violent men have sought after my soul; and have not set thee before them.

## Analysis

**O God, the proud are risen against me** (אֱלֹהִים זָדִים קָמוּ עֲלִי, Elohim zedim kamu-alai)—Zedim means proud, arrogant, insolent ones; kamu means they have risen up. **And the assemblies of violent men have sought after my soul** (עֲדָת עֲרִיצִים) (va-adat aritzim bikshu nafshi)—Adat means assembly, group, company; aritzim means violent, ruthless, terrifying ones. **And have not set thee before them** (וְלֹא שָׁמַךְ לְנֶגְדָם) (ve-lo samukha le-negdam)—They haven't placed God before their eyes; they act as if God doesn't exist or matter.

After praising God's mercy (vv. 12-13), David returns to describing his enemies. The problem isn't just their violence but their godlessness—they **have not set thee before them**. This is practical atheism: living as if God won't judge. Psalm 10:4, 14:1, and 36:1 describe similar attitudes. Their very godlessness emboldens their violence.

## Historical Context

Throughout David's life, enemies conspired—Saul and his court, Absalom and his followers, surrounding nations. Many operated without fear of God. The "assemblies" suggests organized opposition, not random attacks. This pattern continues wherever the church faces organized persecution.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How do you respond when opponents act as if God doesn't exist or won't hold them accountable?
2. What does it mean to "set God before you" in practical, daily terms?
3. How does recognizing your enemies' godlessness help you pray for them rather than merely condemn them?

## Interlinear Text

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אֱלֹהִים	בָּרָא	קָדוֹם	עַל	עַד	תְּבִלָּה	עַל	רִיצִים
O God	the proud	are risen	H5921	against me and the assemblies	H5712	of violent	H6184
H430	H2086	H6965					

  

לְנַגְּדֵם:	שְׁמָה וְ	אֶל	נְפָשָׁה	בְּקָשָׁה	לְנַגְּדֵם:	שְׁמָה וְ	אֶל	נְפָשָׁה	בְּקָשָׁה
men have sought	after my soul	H3808	and have not set	H5048	men have sought	after my soul	H3808	and have not set	H5048
H1245	H5315		H7760		H1245	H5315	H3808	H7760	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 54:3** (Resurrection): For strangers are risen up against me, and oppressors seek after my soul: they have not set God before them. Selah.