

# Psalms 89:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Remember, Lord, the reproach of thy servants; how I do bear  
in my bosom the reproach of all the mighty people;

## Analysis

**Remember, Lord, the reproach of thy servants** (זָכֹר אֲדֹנָי הַרְפַּת עַבְדֶּיךָ zekhor adonai cherpat avadekha)—zakhar (remember) again appeals to covenant faithfulness. Cherpah (reproach, scorn, taunt) is what God's people endure. They're not random sufferers but **thy servants** (avadekha)—covenant people who serve YHWH. **How I do bear in my bosom the reproach of all the mighty people** (שֵׂאֵתִי בְחִיקִי כָל־רַבִּים עַמִּים se'eti vecheqi kol-rabbim ammim)—the psalmist carries (nasa, bear, lift) scorn in his bosom (cheq, lap, heart), internalizing the mockery from many peoples (nations).

The reproach isn't primarily personal but theological: Israel's defeat mocks YHWH's reputation. "Where is your God?" (Psalm 42:3, 10; 79:10). When God's servants suffer, God's glory is at stake. This explains the appeal: "Remember"—not the psalmist's pain but the dishonor to Your name. Christ bore ultimate reproach: "The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me" (Romans 15:3, quoting Psalm 69:9). He internalized humanity's scorn to remove believers' eternal shame. Now believers share Christ's reproach (Hebrews 13:13: "bearing his reproach") but also His vindication.

## Historical Context

Surrounding nations—Edom, Moab, Ammon, Babylon—mocked Judah's exile. Psalm 137:7 records Edom's cruelty: "Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof."

The reproach was international, carried in the heart of every exile. Yet this scorn drove Israel to deeper dependence on God, purifying faith through suffering.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

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

## Study Questions

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1. When you suffer reproach for faithfulness, do you focus on personal vindication or God's reputation being defended?
2. How does Romans 15:3 (Christ bearing reproaches against God) reframe your experience of mockery for faith?
3. What does it mean to "bear Christ's reproach" (Hebrews 13:13) while also sharing His ultimate vindication?

## Interlinear Text

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|          |                                |              |                 |               |             |
|----------|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| זָכוּר   | אֲדֹנָי                        | חֶרֶפַּת     | עַבְדֶּיךָ      | שִׁאתִי       | בְּחִיקִי   |
| Remember | Lord                           | the reproach | of thy servants | how I do bear | in my bosom |
| H2142    | H136                           | H2781        | H5650           | H5375         | H2436       |
| כָּל     | כָּבֹדִי                       | עַמִּים:     |                 |               |             |
| H3605    | the reproach of all the mighty | people       |                 |               |             |
|          | H7227                          | H5971        |                 |               |             |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 74:22** (Parallel theme): Arise, O God, plead thine own cause: remember how the foolish man reproacheth thee daily.

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

**Psalms 69:9** (Parallel theme): For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.

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