

Psalms 9:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgaion.
Selah.

Analysis

The 'Higgaion' and 'Selah' are liturgical notations indicating a pause for meditation on God's revealed justice. The wicked being snared by 'the work of his own hands' demonstrates the Reformed doctrine of God's sovereignty even over human rebellion—He uses the wicked's own devices for their judgment. This verse calls for thoughtful reflection on divine justice.

Historical Context

Musical and liturgical terms suggest this Psalm was used in temple worship. Ancient Israelites would pause here for instrumental meditation.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Do you take time to meditate deeply on God's justice and ways?
2. How does the certainty of God's judgment affect your daily choices?

Interlinear Text

וְיֵדָה	יְהוָה	מִשְׁפָּט	עֲשֵׂה	בְּפָעַל
is known	The LORD	by the judgment	which he executeth	in the work
H3045	H3068	H4941	H6213	H6467

בְּיָדָיו	בָּשָׁע	כַּעֲקָד	סָלָה:	הַגִּיאָה
of his own hands	is snared	the wicked	Higgaion	Selah
H3709	H5367	H7563	H1902	H5542

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 7:5 (References Lord): And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.

Isaiah 8:15 (Parallel theme): And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.

Proverbs 12:13 (Evil): The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.

Exodus 14:4 (References Lord): And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD. And they did so.

Judges 1:7 (Parallel theme): And Adoni-bezek said, Threescore and ten kings, having their thumbs and their great toes cut off, gathered their meat under my table: as I have done, so God hath requited me. And they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died.