

Psalms 91:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

Analysis

The promises continue: "Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence" (Hebrew *ki hu yatzilkha mi-pach yaqush mid-dever havvot*). Two threats: "snare of the fowler" (hidden traps) and "noisome pestilence" (deadly disease). The "fowler" hunts birds with traps—representing Satan's deceptions. "Pestilence" threatens physical life. God delivers from both spiritual and physical dangers. The assurance is grounded in dwelling with God (vv.1-2).

Historical Context

The "fowler's snare" appears throughout Psalms (124:7, 141:9) and Proverbs (6:5, 7:23) as metaphor for death's trap or enemy schemes. "Pestilence" plagued ancient world—disease without cure or prevention. These threats remain: spiritual deception and physical suffering. Jesus warned against the devil as deceiver (John 8:44). Revelation promises ultimate deliverance: no more death, disease, or deception (21:4, 22:15).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What "snares" (deceptions, temptations) threaten your spiritual life?
2. How does "dwelling" in God (vv.1-2) provide protection from both seen and unseen dangers?
3. How does Christ's victory over Satan and death guarantee believers' ultimate deliverance from all threats?

Interlinear Text

הוא כ' י	יִצִּילֶךָ	מִפֶּה ח	יֶקֶן וְשׁ	מִדֶּבֶר
H3588	H1931	H5337	H3353	H1698
	Surely he shall deliver	thee from the snare	of the fowler	pestilence
		H6341		
	הָנוּחַ:			
	and from the noisome			
	H1942			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 141:9 (Parallel theme): Keep me from the snares which they have laid for me, and the gins of the workers of iniquity.

Psalms 124:7 (Parallel theme): Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.

Proverbs 7:23 (Parallel theme): Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.

Proverbs 6:5 (Parallel theme): Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

1 Timothy 6:9 (Parallel theme): But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Ecclesiastes 9:12 (Parallel theme): For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

2 Timothy 2:26 (Parallel theme): And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Psalms 91:6 (Parallel theme): Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

Amos 3:5 (Parallel theme): Can a bird fall in a snare upon the earth, where no gin is for him? shall one take up a snare from the earth, and have taken nothing at all?

Hosea 9:8 (Parallel theme): The watchman of Ephraim was with my God: but the prophet is a snare of a fowler in all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God.

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