

Psalms 94:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, shew thyself.

Analysis

This imprecatory psalm appeals to God as 'the God to whom vengeance belongeth' (El neqamot—literally 'God of vengeances'), using the plural to intensify the concept. The call for God to 'shew thyself' (hofa) requests visible manifestation of His justice. The dual address to 'O LORD God' and repetition of 'shew thyself' creates urgency and intensity. This verse establishes that vengeance belongs to God alone (Deuteronomy 32:35, Romans 12:19), not to human agents, while affirming that God will actively judge evil.

Historical Context

Written during a time of oppression, likely when Israel faced persecution from wicked rulers or foreign powers, this psalm voices the cry of the oppressed for divine intervention.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does entrusting vengeance to God free you from bitterness when you experience injustice?
2. What does it mean to pray for God's justice while also extending forgiveness to those who wrong you?

Interlinear Text

לְאֵלֹהִים וְלְאֵלֹהִים וְלְאֵלֹהִים וְלְאֵלֹהִים
God to whom vengeance O LORD God to whom vengeance belongeth shew
H410 H5360 H3068 H410 H5360 H3313

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 35:4 (References God): Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

Nahum 1:2 (References God): God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

Deuteronomy 32:35 (Parallel theme): To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

Isaiah 59:17 (Parallel theme): For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.

Romans 12:19 (References Lord): Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 1:8 (References God): In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Hebrews 10:30 (References Lord): For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

Jeremiah 50:28 (References God): The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, the vengeance of his temple.

Psalms 80:1 (Parallel theme): Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

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