

Psalms 94:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?

Analysis

Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? (מִי־קוֹם לִי עִם־מַרְעִים)—The lonely cry of the righteous surrounded by wickedness. Qum (rise up/stand) seeks an ally willing to confront evil. The rhetorical question expects silence—no human helper appears adequate. **Who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?** (מִי־תִצָּב לִי עִם־פְּעָלֵי אָוֶן) repeats the desperation.

Yet verse 17 answers: the LORD is the defender. This pattern saturates Psalms—human isolation drives the psalmist to divine sufficiency. Christ experienced ultimate abandonment (Mark 15:34) so believers never face evil alone. Romans 8:31—'If God be for us, who can be against us?'—echoes this confidence.

Historical Context

The language suggests judicial imagery—the psalmist stands accused or oppressed with no advocate. In ancient courts, the accused needed someone to plead their case. This foreshadows Christ as our advocate (1 John 2:1) and the Spirit as our helper (John 14:16).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. When have you felt isolated in opposing evil—and where was God in that loneliness?
2. Who around you needs an ally to 'rise up' on their behalf against injustice?
3. How does Christ's advocacy for you embolden you to stand against wickedness despite opposition?

Interlinear Text

מִי H4310	יָקֹם וְיָעִזְרֵנוּ H6965	לִי H0	עִמָּדִי H5973	מִרְעָעִים H7489	מִי H4310
	Who will rise up		for me	against the evildoers	
	וְיָתִיצֵב H3320	לִי H0	עִמָּדִי H5973	פְּעָלֵי H6466	אֲוִלָּה H205
	or who will stand up		for me	against the workers	of iniquity

Additional Cross-References

Judges 5:23 (Parallel theme): Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.