

Psalms 94:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They break in pieces thy people, O LORD, and afflict thine heritage.

Analysis

The psalmist describes the wicked 'breaking in pieces' (daka—crush, oppress) God's people and afflicting His heritage (nachalah—possession, inheritance). The dual description 'thy people' and 'thine heritage' emphasizes that attacking God's people is attacking God's own possession. This verse establishes that persecution of believers is not merely horizontal conflict but vertical offense against God. The LORD takes personally the suffering inflicted on His people, a principle Jesus affirms in Matthew 25:40, 45.

Historical Context

Israel as God's chosen people (Exodus 19:5-6, Deuteronomy 7:6) meant that their oppression was an affront to God's sovereign choice and covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does knowing you are God's 'heritage' affect your response to opposition and persecution?

2. In what ways do you see God's people being 'broken in pieces' in today's world, and how should you respond?

Interlinear Text

עַמֶּךָ	יְהוָה	יִדְכָּא ו	וְנִסְלִיתְךָ	יַעֲנֶנּוּ:
thy people	O LORD	They break in pieces	thine heritage	and afflict
H5971	H3068	H1792	H5159	H6031

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 3:15 (References Lord): What mean ye that ye beat my people to pieces, and grind the faces of the poor? saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

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