

2 Corinthians 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

Analysis

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (εὐλογητὸς ὁ θεός)—This berakah echoes Jewish liturgy (Ps 68:19, Eph 1:3), centering on the Father's relationship to Jesus. Paul erupts in doxology before finishing his greeting.

The Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort—oiktirmōn (οἰκτιρμῶν, "compassions") is visceral (from "bowels"), signifying deep empathy. Paraklēseōs (παρακλήσεως, "comfort") becomes the chapter's drumbeat (used 10 times, vv. 3-7). God doesn't merely give comfort—He IS comfort.

Historical Context

Written around AD 55-56 from Macedonia after Paul's 'painful visit' to Corinth (2:1). The Corinthian church faced challenges to Paul's apostolic authority from 'super-apostles' (11:5) who valued eloquence over cruciform ministry. Paul writes to defend his ministry, explain his changed travel plans, and restore relationship with this fractious congregation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. When did I last bless God spontaneously amid difficulty, before seeing resolution?
2. How does viewing God as 'Father of mercies' (plural, abundant) shape expectations of His care?
3. What comfort am I hoarding rather than channeling to others in tribulation (v. 4)?

Interlinear Text

Εὐλογητὸς ὁ θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν
Blessed be God and the Father of our Lord of our
G2128 G3588 G2316 G2532 G3962 G3588 G2962 G2257

Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ὁ πατὴρ τῶν οἰκτιρμῶν καὶ θεὸς
Jesus Christ the Father of mercies and be God
G2424 G5547 G3588 G3962 G3588 G3628 G2532 G2316

πάσης παρακλήσεως
of all comfort
G3956 G3874

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 1:3 (Blessing): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

1 Peter 1:3 (Blessing): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Micah 7:18 (References God): Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

Psalms 86:5 (References Lord): For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Philippians 2:11 (References Jesus): And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2 John 1:9 (References Christ): Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

Ephesians 1:17 (References Jesus): That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Daniel 9:9 (References God): To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;

Psalms 86:15 (References God): But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

2 Corinthians 11:31 (Blessing): The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.