

2 Samuel 22:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness.

Analysis

For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness.

This verse contributes to the narrative of David's Song, emphasizing praising God for deliverance. David's psalm of deliverance (parallel to Psalm 18) celebrates God's faithfulness throughout his tumultuous reign. The Hebrew poetry employs vivid imagery of divine intervention, warrior language, and covenant terminology. Theological themes include praising God for deliverance, reviewing God's faithfulness in retrospect, the righteousness of God's judgments, and anticipation of ultimate victory through God's anointed (messianic overtones).

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 22 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding praising God for deliverance provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of praising God for deliverance?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אֶתְּ הָ	נִירִי	וְיָהוָה הָ	וְיָהוָה הָ	יְגִי יֵה	חֹשְׁךְ:
H3588	H859	For thou art my lamp	O LORD	O LORD	will lighten	my darkness
		H5216	H3068	H3068	H5050	H2822

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 27:1 (Light): The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Job 29:3 (Light): When his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness;

John 8:12 (Light): Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Revelation 21:23 (Light): And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

John 12:46 (Light): I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Micah 7:9 (Light): I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.

Psalms 112:4 (Light): Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

Isaiah 50:10 (Light): Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

Psalms 97:11 (Light): Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.

Psalms 4:6 (Light): There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.