

Isaiah 26:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

Analysis

"Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength." This is one of Scripture's most powerful exhortations to perpetual trust. **"Trust ye in the LORD for ever"** (בִּטְחוּ בַיהוָה עַד־עַד/bitchu vaYHWH adei-ad)—the imperative bitchu (trust!) calls for confident reliance, secure confidence, complete dependence. The time frame adei-ad (forever and ever, perpetually, through all time) extends this trust eternally—not temporary trust during crises, but permanent, unwavering confidence in God throughout all circumstances and all ages.

"For in the LORD JEHOVAH" (כִּי בַיהוָה/ki b'Yah YHWH)—this remarkable phrase combines the shortened form Yah (יָה) with the full tetragrammaton YHWH (יהוה), creating intensive emphasis on the covenant name of God. Some translate this as "in Yah, the LORD" or "in the LORD, even Yahweh." The repetition emphasizes the personal covenant God who has revealed Himself by name. **"Is everlasting strength"** (עוֹלָמִים תְּצוּר/tzur olamim)—tzur literally means rock, cliff, boulder, the solid bedrock foundation that never shifts or crumbles. Olamim (ages, eternity, everlasting) pluralizes "age" to emphasize perpetuity—the Rock of all ages, eternal strength that outlasts every temporal power.

Historical Context

The double divine name (Yah YHWH) appears rarely in Scripture, creating special emphasis. In Isaiah's time, Judah faced the terrifying Assyrian empire—the

greatest military power in the ancient world. King Ahaz had trusted in Assyrian alliance rather than God (Isaiah 7), with disastrous results. Isaiah consistently called the people back to trust in YHWH alone, not political alliances or military might. This "Rock of Ages" language became foundational for Christian hymnody, most famously in Augustus Toplady's 1776 hymn "Rock of Ages, cleft for me."

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does 'forever' trust look like practically—how is it different from crisis-driven faith that emerges only when needed?
2. How does knowing God as 'the Rock of Ages' address your deepest insecurities about the future?
3. In what areas are you most tempted to trust in human strength, alliances, or securities rather than in YHWH alone?

Interlinear Text

וַ	יְהוָה	עֲדִי	עַד	כִּי	בְּיָה	יְהוָה	צוּר
Trust	JEHOVAH	H5704	for ever	H3588	for in the LORD	JEHOVAH	strength
H982	H3068		H5703		H3050	H3068	H6697

עוֹלָמִים:

is everlasting
H5769

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 12:2 (Faith): Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

Psalms 62:8 (Faith): Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

Psalms 55:22 (References Lord): Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Psalms 18:2 (Faith): The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Philippians 4:13 (Parallel theme): I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Psalms 62:11 (Parallel theme): God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.

Psalms 46:1 (Parallel theme): God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

1 Samuel 2:2 (References Lord): There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.

Isaiah 50:10 (Faith): 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.

Isaiah 32:2 (Parallel theme): And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.