

Isaiah 26:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for thee; the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee.

Analysis

"Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for thee; the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee." This verse expresses faithful patience and deep longing for God. **"In the way of thy judgments...have we waited for thee"** (אֶחָד אֶחָד מִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ יְהוָה קִוּוּנָּךְ) (af orach mishpatekha YHWH qiwwinukha)—af (yea, also, even) emphasizes what follows. Orach mishpatekha (the way of thy judgments) refers to God's providential dealings, His acts of justice and governance. Even when God's judgments seem harsh or His ways mysterious, the faithful wait for Him. Qiwwinukha (we have waited for You) uses qavah, meaning to wait expectantly, hope, look eagerly for, like a watchman awaiting dawn.

"The desire of our soul is to thy name" (לְשִׁמְךָ וּלְזִכְרְךָ תַּאֲוַת־נַפֶּשׁ) (leshimkha ulzikhrekha ta'avat-nafesh)—ta'avat-nafesh (desire of soul) uses strong language of deep craving, intense longing, passionate desire. The same word can describe lustful craving (Numbers 11:4), but here it's redeemed desire—passionate longing for God Himself. **"To thy name"** (leshimkha) means to God's revealed character, reputation, and essence. **"And to the remembrance of thee"** (ulzikhrekha)—zekher means remembrance, memorial, the recollection and rehearsal of God's mighty acts and faithful character. True worshipers desire God's name (who He is) and His remembrance (what He has done).

Historical Context

During exile and oppression, Israel had to wait through generations for God's deliverance. This wasn't passive resignation but active, expectant waiting—continuing to trust and worship while circumstances screamed abandonment. The language of passionate desire for God's name contrasts sharply with the superficial religiosity Isaiah often condemned (Isaiah 1:10-17). This is heartfelt longing, not ritualistic observance. The New Testament continues this theme: believers wait for Christ's return (1 Thessalonians 1:10), groaning for redemption (Romans 8:23) while passionately desiring His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to wait for God 'in the way of His judgments'—even when His dealings seem harsh or delayed?
2. Do you experience 'soul desire' for God's name and remembrance, or has faith become merely dutiful obligation?
3. How can rehearsing God's past faithfulness ('the remembrance of thee') strengthen present waiting?

Interlinear Text

אֵל	אֵל בָּרַח	מִשְׁפָּט יְיָ	יְהוָה	קָוִינוּ וְיָ	לְשִׁמְךָ
H637	Yea in the way	of thy judgments	O LORD	have we waited	is to thy name
	H734	H4941	H3068	H6960	H8034
	לְזִכְרְךָ	תַּאֲוֹת	נַפְשׁ:		
	and to the remembrance	for thee the desire	of our soul		
	H2143	H8378	H5315		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 33:2 (References Lord): O LORD, be gracious unto us; we have waited for thee: be thou their arm every morning, our salvation also in the time of trouble.

Psalms 65:6 (Parallel theme): Which by his strength setteth fast the mountains; being girded with power:

Exodus 3:15 (References Lord): And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

Acts 1:4 (Parallel theme): And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

Romans 8:25 (Parallel theme): But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

2 Thessalonians 3:5 (References Lord): And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.