

Isaiah 30:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

Analysis

And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you (יַחַקֶּה/yechakkeh)—After devastating judgment threats, this verse pivots dramatically. God waits—the same verb used for patient expectation—because his purpose is grace (חַנּוּן/chanan), showing unmerited favor. **He will be exalted** (יָרִים/yarum) means lifted high; God's glory is magnified when he shows mercy to the undeserving.

For the LORD is a God of judgment (מִשְׁפָּט/mishpat)—mishpat means both justice and judicial decision. God's judgment includes both punishing rebellion (vv. 12-17) and vindicating his people (vv. 19-26). **Blessed are all they that wait for him**—The same verb (chakah) used for God's waiting! Mutual waiting: God waits to be gracious; the faithful wait for his grace. This is the posture of faith.

Historical Context

Written during the Assyrian crisis, this promise looked beyond immediate political threats to ultimate restoration. God's 'waiting' encompassed the Babylonian exile and eventual return, but ultimately points to Messiah's first advent ("in the fullness of time," Galatians 4:4) and second coming. God's patience is redemptive, giving space for repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's 'waiting' change your view of delayed answers to prayer?
2. In what ways is God exalted when he shows mercy to you despite your failures?
3. What does it mean practically to 'wait for God' in a culture that demands instant results?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא יֵלֵךְ | ח וְכִי | יְהוָה | לְחַנּוּן הֵוא
H3651 are all they that wait And therefore will the LORD that he may be gracious
H2442 H3068 H2603

וְלֹא יֵלֵךְ | יְרֹם וְ | לְרַחֲמֶיךָ הֵוא | כִּי
H3651 unto you and therefore will he be exalted that he may have mercy H3588
H7311 H7355

אֱלֹהִים | מִשְׁפָּט | יְהוָה | אֲשֶׁר יְ | כָל
is a God of judgment And therefore will the LORD blessed H3605
H430 H4941 H3068 H835

וְכִי | ח | לוֹ:
are all they that wait H0
H2442

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 3:9 (References Lord): The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Proverbs 16:20 (References Lord): He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.

Isaiah 8:17 (References Lord): And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.

Isaiah 25:9 (References God): And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Psalms 34:8 (Blessing): O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

2 Peter 3:15 (References Lord): And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

Luke 15:20 (Parallel theme): And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Isaiah 33:5 (Judgment): The LORD is exalted; for he dwelleth on high: he hath filled Zion with judgment and righteousness.

Isaiah 55:8 (References Lord): For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

Psalms 27:14 (References Lord): Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.