

# Isaiah 33:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**O LORD, be gracious unto us** (יְהוָה חַנּוּן, YHWH chanennu)—the imperative חַנּוּן (chanan, be gracious, show favor) pleads for divine grace. **We have waited for thee** (לָךְ קִיִּינוּ, lekha qivinu)—we have קָוָה (qavah, waited, hoped, expected). **Be thou their arm every morning** (הָיֵה זְרוֹעַם לְבֹקֶרִים, heyeh zero'am labeqarim)—be their זְרוֹעַ (zeroa, arm, strength) each בֹּקֶר (boqer, morning). **Our salvation also in the time of trouble** (אֲף־יְשׁוּעָתֵנוּ בְּעֵת צָרָה, af-yeshu'atenu be'et tsarah)—our יְשׁוּעָה (yeshu'ah, salvation, deliverance) in time of צָרָה (tsarah, trouble, distress).

After pronouncing woe on the destroyer (v. 1), the prophet voices Israel's prayer. The petition acknowledges complete dependence—they need God's grace (חֵן, chen), not deserving deliverance but pleading for it. The 'arm' metaphor (זְרוֹעַ, zeroa) represents strength, power to save (Isaiah 53:1, 'to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?'). 'Every morning' indicates daily dependence. Lamentations 3:22-23 echoes: 'His compassions fail not. They are new every morning.'

## Historical Context

This prayer likely reflects the 701 BC Assyrian siege when Hezekiah and Isaiah prayed for deliverance (Isaiah 37:14-20). Surrounded by overwhelming force, Judah could only wait (קָוָה, qavah) for God. Psalm 130:5-6 captures this posture: 'I wait for the LORD... more than they that watch for the morning.' The deliverance

came suddenly—angel struck Assyrian army overnight. Morning brought salvation after night of terror.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does praying for grace rather than demanding justice reflect proper understanding of our position before God?
2. What does it mean to need God's 'arm'—His strength—'every morning,' not just in crises?
3. When have you experienced waiting (קָוָה) for God's salvation during prolonged trouble?

## Interlinear Text

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יְהוָה ה	חַנּוּן נוּ	לָבָ	קָוָה יֵנוּ	יְהוָה ה
<b>O LORD</b>	<b>be gracious</b>	H0	<b>unto us we have waited</b>	H1961
H3068	H2603		H6960	
זְרַעַם	לְבָקֶר יִם	אֶף	יְשׁוּעָתָנוּ	בְּעֵת
<b>for thee be thou their arm</b>	<b>every morning</b>	H637	<b>our salvation</b>	<b>also in the time</b>
H2220	H1242		H3444	H6256
צָרָה:				
<b>of trouble</b>				
H6869				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 25:9** (Salvation): 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 60:11** (Parallel theme): Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man.

**Isaiah 59:16** (Salvation): And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

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

**Psalms 62:1** (Salvation): Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.

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

**Exodus 14:27** (References Lord): And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

**Isaiah 26:16** (References Lord): LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them.

**Isaiah 40:10** (References Lord): Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

**Isaiah 25:4** (Parallel theme): For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.