

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 (וְחִנָּנוּ, YHWH chanennu)—the imperative (chanan, be gracious, show favor) pleads for divine grace. **We have waited for thee** (לְקִוָּנוּ, lekha qivinu)—we have (qavah, waited, hoped, expected). **Be thou their arm every morning** (וְהִיֵּה זָרָעֵם לְבָקָרִים, heyeh zero'am labeqarim)—be their (zeroa, arm, strength) each (boqer, morning). **Our salvation also in the time of trouble** (אֵשֶׁף־שְׁוֹעָתֵנוּ בָּעֵת צָרָה) —our (yeshu'ah, salvation, deliverance) in time of (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 (חִנָּנוּ, chen), not deserving deliverance but pleading for it. The 'arm' metaphor (זרע, 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 (קִוָּה, 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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

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 (קָרְאָה) for God's salvation during prolonged trouble?

Interlinear Text

בָּרוּךְ הוּא יְהִי רָחֵל
O LORD be gracious הָא לְבָנֶינוּ
H3068 H2603 H6960 H1961

בְּעֵת יְשׁוּעָת נָנוּ אַתָּה יְמִינֵנוּ
for thee be thou their arm every morning our salvation also in the time
H2220 H1242 H637 H3444 H6256

אַתָּה:
of trouble
H6869

Additional Cross-References

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.