

Jeremiah 39:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I will surely deliver thee, and thou shalt not fall by the sword, but thy life shall be for a prey unto thee: because thou hast put thy trust in me, saith the LORD.

Analysis

The reason for Ebed-melech's deliverance is stated explicitly: 'because thou hast put thy trust in me, saith the LORD.' This is the heart of saving faith - trust in God Himself, not in circumstances, nationality, or religious pedigree. His life becomes 'a prey' (spoils of war retained) - he survives amid general destruction. Faith secures what nothing else can.

Historical Context

While Jerusalem was destroyed and most inhabitants killed or exiled, this Ethiopian servant was specifically protected by God's providence.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to put your trust in the LORD rather than in circumstances?

2. How does God sometimes make your life 'a prey' - preserved from destruction around you?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אֶמְלֹכְךָ	אֶמְלֹכְךָ	וּבִי חֶבֶד	לֹא	
H3588	For I will surely	For I will surely	by the sword	H3808	
	H4422	H4422	H2719		
	תִּפֹּל לְ	וְהָיָה הָ	לְךָ	נַפְשְׁךָ	לְשָׁלָל לְ
	thee and thou shalt not fall	H1961	H0	but thy life	shall be for a prey
	H5307			H5315	H7998
	בְּטַחְתָּ		בִּי	נֹאמֵר	יְהוָה:
	unto thee because thou hast put thy trust		H0	in me saith	the LORD
	H982			H5002	H3068

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 34:22 (Faith): The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

Jeremiah 21:9 (Word): He that abideth in this city shall die by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth out, and falleth to the Chaldeans that besiege you, he shall live, and his life shall be unto him for a prey.

Jeremiah 38:2 (Word): Thus saith the LORD, He that remaineth in this city shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth forth to the Chaldeans shall live; for he shall have his life for a prey, and shall live.

Ephesians 1:12 (Faith): That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Psalms 84:12 (Faith): O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

Psalms 147:11 (References Lord): The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.

1 Chronicles 5:20 (Faith): And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all that were with them: for they cried to God in the battle, and he was intreated of them; because they put their trust in him.

Psalms 37:3 (Faith): Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Isaiah 26:3 (Faith): Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Psalms 33:18 (References Lord): Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;