

Psalm 102:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble;
incline thine ear unto me: in the day when I call answer me
speedily.

Analysis

The psalmist's desperate plea for God to hear and answer quickly reveals the intensity of his affliction. 'Hide not thy face' uses covenant language; God's face represents His favor and presence (Num 6:25-26). The urgency 'in the day when I call' emphasizes immediate need. This lament anticipates Christ's experience of divine abandonment on the cross (Matt 27:46), where He bore the full weight of God's hidden face so that believers might always experience His favorable presence.

Historical Context

Psalm 102 is titled 'A Prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed, and poureth out his complaint before the LORD.' Some scholars suggest it was written during the Babylonian exile, reflecting both personal and national distress.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. When God seems distant, how do you persist in prayer while trusting His sovereign purposes?
2. How does Christ's cry of dereliction assure you that God hears your prayers even in darkest moments?

Interlinear Text

אַל	בַּיּ	וּמָ	בַּיּ	רָ	אַל
H408	Hide	not thy face	H4480	from me in the day	when I am in trouble
	H5641	H6440		H3117	H6862
לֵ	אַל	בַּיּ	אַל	אַל	מֵה
H0	incline	H413	thine ear	from me in the day	when I call
	H5186	H241		H3117	H7121
					H4118

נִתְנוּ:

answer

H6030

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 69:17 (Parallel theme): And hide not thy face from thy servant; for I am in trouble: hear me speedily.

Psalms 27:9 (Parallel theme): Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Psalms 104:29 (Parallel theme): Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

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

Psalms 71:2 (Parallel theme): Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me.

Psalms 70:1 (Parallel theme): Make haste, O God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O LORD.

Psalms 143:7 (Parallel theme): Hear me speedily, O LORD: my spirit faileth: hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.

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