

Psalms 103:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee
with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

Analysis

God 'redeems' (ga'al) from destruction, using kinsman-redeemer language that anticipates Christ's work. He crowns with 'lovingkindness' (chesed) and 'tender mercies' (racham), covenant terms emphasizing God's faithful love. The imagery of redemption from the pit suggests rescue from death or Sheol. God doesn't merely save from danger but honors the redeemed with royal crowns of grace. This points to believers' union with Christ, who redeems from sin's destruction and crowns with glory and honor (Heb 2:9).

Historical Context

The kinsman-redeemer concept (illustrated in Ruth) involved a relative purchasing back family members sold into slavery or redeeming lost property. David applies this legal concept to God's spiritual redemption of His people.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does understanding redemption through the kinsman-redeemer concept deepen your appreciation for Christ's work?
2. What 'crown' of blessing has God placed on your life since redeeming you?

Interlinear Text

הַגֹּאֵל לִי	מִשֵּׁ חַת	חַיִּי יְיָ	הַ, מְעֻטֵּר כִּי	חֶסֶד
Who redeemeth	from destruction	thy life	who crowneth	thee with lovingkindness
H1350	H7845	H2416	H5849	H2617
וְרַחֲמִים:				
and tender mercies				
H7356				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 71:23 (Redemption): My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee; and my soul, which thou hast redeemed.

Psalms 103:12 (Parallel theme): As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Psalms 8:5 (Parallel theme): For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

Psalms 56:13 (Parallel theme): For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

1 Peter 5:4 (Parallel theme): And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Psalms 5:12 (Parallel theme): For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

James 1:12 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Revelation 5:9 (Redemption): And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

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

Psalms 21:3 (Parallel theme): For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head.