

Psalms 104:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season.

Analysis

All creatures wait upon (sabar) God to give them food 'in due season.' Universal dependence on God's provision is emphasized—every creature relies entirely on divine sustenance. 'Wait upon' suggests expectant dependence, not passive resignation. 'Due season' (ittah) indicates God's perfect timing. This grounds all life in God's ongoing providence. Christ taught that the Father feeds all creatures (Matt 6:26), grounding human trust in prayer. The Reformed understanding of providence recognizes God's active, continuous sustaining of all creation.

Historical Context

Agricultural societies understood seasonal patterns of provision—harvest times, rainy seasons, etc. This verse theologizes that experience, attributing seasonal provision to God's faithful care rather than impersonal nature.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing your complete dependence on God's provision transform your approach to prayer?
2. What does waiting for provision 'in due season' teach about trusting God's timing?

Interlinear Text

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|-------|----------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| לָם | אֶל יְיָ | יִשְׁבֵּר וְ | לִי ת | אֲכָלֵם |
| H3605 | H413 | H7663 | H5414 | H400 |
| | | These wait | all upon thee that thou mayest give | them their meat |

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|---------------|
| בְּעֵתוֹ: |
| in due season |
| H6256 |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 136:25 (Parallel theme): Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Psalms 147:9 (Parallel theme): He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry.

Job 38:41 (Parallel theme): Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat.

Job 36:31 (Parallel theme): For by them judgeth he the people; he giveth meat in abundance.