

Psalms 108:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.

Analysis

The psalm opens with a declaration of steadfast resolve: 'O God, my heart is fixed.' The word 'fixed' (Hebrew 'nakown') means established, stable, or firmly resolved. This internal disposition of the heart precedes and enables external worship. The repetition 'I will sing and give praise' emphasizes joyful determination. 'Even with my glory' (Hebrew 'kevodi') could mean 'my soul,' 'my honor,' or 'my innermost being' - suggesting worship that engages the whole person. This verse establishes worship as a matter of will and resolution, not merely emotional response. The stability of heart reflects trust in God's stability, and the commitment to praise even 'with my glory' suggests that worship is humanity's highest honor and purpose. It's a conscious choice to align oneself with God's worthiness.

Historical Context

Psalms 108 is a composite psalm, combining Psalm 57:7-11 (verses 1-5) with Psalm 60:5-12 (verses 6-13). This editorial combination may reflect different historical contexts being applied to new circumstances. If the Davidic attribution is historical, the 'fixed heart' may recall David's steadfastness through various trials - Saul's persecution, Absalom's rebellion, or military campaigns. The term 'my glory' echoes Psalm 16:9 where David's 'glory' rejoices in God's presence. In ancient Near Eastern culture, the heart was considered the seat of will and decision, not merely emotion. A 'fixed heart' would be essential for a king facing political and military challenges. The combination of personal devotion ('my heart is fixed') with

public testimony ('I will sing and give praise') reflects the integration of private piety and public leadership expected of Israel's king.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to have a 'fixed' heart toward God, and how is this achieved?
2. How does the stability of our hearts in God enable consistency in worship regardless of circumstances?
3. What is the significance of praising God 'with my glory' - with the highest and best part of ourselves?
4. Why does the psalmist make declarations of future action ('I will sing') rather than simply describing present feelings?
5. How does personal resolve in worship relate to genuine spiritual experience versus duty or performance?

Interlinear Text

נָכַן	לִבִּי	אֱלֹהֵי יָם	אֲשֶׁר יִרְה	וְאֶזְמְרָה	אֲרָ	כְּבוֹדִי:
is fixed	my heart	O God	I will sing	and give praise	H637	even with my glory
H3559	H3820	H430	H7891	H2167		H3519

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 71:15 (Parallel theme): My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof.

Psalms 104:33 (Resurrection): I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

Psalms 68:1 (Resurrection): Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him.

Psalms 71:8 (Resurrection): Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day.

Psalms 34:1 (Resurrection): I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Exodus 15:1 (Glory): Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

Psalms 30:12 (Glory): To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.

Psalms 16:9 (Glory): Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.