

Psalms 108:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wilt not thou, O God, who hast cast us off? and wilt not thou, O God, go forth with our hosts?

Analysis

Wilt not thou, O God, who hast cast us off? (וְלֹא־אָתָה אֱלֹהִים זָנַחֲתָנוּ) halo-attah Elohim zenachtanu)—zenach (cast off, reject, spurn) describes God's discipline, possibly referring to recent military defeats (Psalm 60 context). Yet halo-attah (is it not You?) appeals to the very God who disciplined to now restore.

Wilt not thou, O God, go forth with our hosts? (וְלֹא־תֵצֵא אֱלֹהִים בְּצַבָּאֹתֵינוּ) velo-tetze Elohim betzivoteinu)—tetze (go forth) describes God as warrior leading armies into battle. Tzivoteinu (our hosts, armies) acknowledges human forces are useless without divine presence. The question expects affirmative answer: 'Won't You, who disciplined us, now fight for us?'

David's theology allows for divine discipline without losing confidence in divine deliverance. Past rejection doesn't mean permanent abandonment. This echoes Lamentations 3:31-32: 'The Lord will not cast off forever... though He cause grief, He will have compassion.' God's discipline is redemptive, not final.

Historical Context

The context of recent defeat (Psalm 60 title mentions battles with Aram and Edom) explains the reference to God 'casting off.' Yet David's question rhetorically demands restoration—the same God who withdrew must return to give victory.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when circumstances suggest God has 'cast you off'—with despair or with David's expectant questioning?
2. What's the difference between God's temporary discipline and permanent rejection?
3. How does recognizing that 'our hosts' accomplish nothing without God going forth keep you dependent on Him?

Interlinear Text

בְּלֹא	אַלְהָ יְמִ	אַלְהָ יְמִ	זָנַחֲתָנוּ	וְלֹא	תַּצְאֵלָ	אַלְהָ יְמִ
H3808	Wilt not thou O God	who hast cast us off	H2186	H3808	go forth	Wilt not thou O God
	H430			H3318		H430

בְּצָבָאָתִינוּ:

with our hosts

H6635

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 44:9 (Parallel theme): But thou hast cast off, and put us to shame; and goest not forth with our armies.

2 Chronicles 13:12 (References God): And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O

children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.

2 Chronicles 20:15 (References God): And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not your's, but God's.

1 Samuel 17:36 (References God): Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

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