

Psalms 109:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he shall stand at the right hand of the poor, to save him
from those that condemn his soul.

Analysis

For he shall stand at the right hand of the poor (כִּי־יַעֲמֹד לְיָמִין אֶבְיוֹן, ki-ya'amod limin evyon)—Amad means stand, take a stand; yamin means right hand, the place of advocacy/defense; evyon means poor, needy, afflicted. **To save him from those that condemn his soul** (לְהוֹשִׁיעַ מִשְׁפָּטֵי נִפְשׁוֹ, lehoshi'a mi-shoftei nafsho)—Yasha means save, deliver; shoftei means those who judge; nefesh means soul, life, person.

This verse explains the confidence behind verse 30's praise: God stands as advocate for the powerless. The "right hand" is the position of the defender in court. While enemies accuse, God stands as defense attorney for the evyon (afflicted poor). This anticipates Christ's advocacy: "We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). Romans 8:34 says Christ "is at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

Historical Context

Ancient courts favored the powerful; the poor rarely received justice (Exodus 23:6, Proverbs 22:22, Isaiah 10:1-2). God's law commanded special protection for the powerless (Deuteronomy 24:17-18). God himself becomes their defender when human courts fail. This theme runs throughout Scripture: God sides with the vulnerable against oppressors.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does knowing God stands as your advocate affect your response to accusation?
2. What does it mean that God specifically defends the "poor" (afflicted, powerless, marginalized)?
3. How does Christ's intercession at God's right hand (Romans 8:34) fulfill this verse perfectly?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	יַעֲמֹד	לְיָמִין	אֶבְרִי	לְהוֹשִׁיעַ
H3588	For he shall stand	at the right hand	of the poor	to save
	H5975	H3225	H34	H3467
	מִשְׁפָּטֵי	נַפְשׁוֹ		
	him from those that condemn	his soul		
	H8199	H5315		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 16:8 (Parallel theme): I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Psalms 121:5 (Parallel theme): The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.

Psalms 140:12 (Parallel theme): I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor.

Psalms 73:23 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless I am continually with thee; thou hast holden me by my right hand.

Psalms 110:5 (Parallel theme): The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath.

Isaiah 54:17 (Parallel theme): No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

Psalms 68:5 (Parallel theme): A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.

Psalms 72:4 (Salvation): He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.

Ecclesiastes 5:8 (Parallel theme): If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they.

Psalms 10:14 (Parallel theme): Thou hast seen it; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite it with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless.