

Psalms 116:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.

Analysis

For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. This verse specifies God's bountiful dealings (v. 7) through threefold deliverance. **Delivered my soul from death** (challatzta nafshi mimavet, חַלַּצְתָּ נַפְשִׁי מִמָּוֶת) uses chalats (חָלַצ), meaning to pull out, rescue, equip—like removing someone from quicksand or battle. God extracted the psalmist from death's grip (v. 3).

Mine eyes from tears (et-eini min-dimah, אֶת־עֵינַי מִן־דִּמְעָה). God doesn't merely deliver from death but from the sorrow accompanying mortal threat. Weeping ceases when danger passes. This anticipates eschatological promise: 'God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes' (Revelation 21:4).

And my feet from falling (et-ragli midechi, אֶת־רַגְלִי מִדְּחִי). Dechi (דָּחִי) means stumbling, being pushed down. God steadied the psalmist's steps, preventing collapse. The three-fold pattern (soul/life, eyes/emotions, feet/stability) encompasses total deliverance—existence preserved, sorrow removed, stability restored. This is comprehensive salvation, body and soul.

Historical Context

This psalm was sung at Passover, Israel's foundational deliverance narrative. God delivered Israel's lives from death (Exodus 12, Passover), their tears from slavery's sorrow, and their feet from Egypt's bondage, leading them into freedom. Personal

testimony merges with corporate memory. Every Israelite could say, 'God delivered my ancestors, and He delivered me.' Christians apply this to Christ's greater Exodus—delivering from sin's death, sin's sorrow, and sin's enslaving power. Baptism signifies this comprehensive deliverance.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does understanding salvation as comprehensive (soul, eyes, feet; life, emotions, stability) guard against truncated gospel presentations?
2. What tears has God dried in your life through His deliverance, and how does remembering this strengthen faith?
3. How does personal testimony of deliverance ('thou hast delivered my soul') connect to God's larger redemptive purposes in history?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	חַלְצָתָ	נַפְשִׁי	מִמָּוֶת	אֶת	עֵינַי	מִן
H3588	For thou hast delivered	my soul	from death	H853	mine eyes	H4480
	H2502	H5315	H4194		H5869	
אֶת דְּמְעָה	וְרַגְלִי	מִדָּחִי				
from tears	and my feet	from falling				
H1832	H7272	H1762				

Additional Cross-References

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?

Revelation 21:4 (Parallel theme): And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Psalms 86:13 (Parallel theme): For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

Revelation 7:17 (Parallel theme): For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Isaiah 25:8 (Parallel theme): He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

Isaiah 38:5 (Parallel theme): Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.

Psalms 37:24 (Parallel theme): Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

Psalms 94:18 (Parallel theme): When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up.

Psalms 49:15 (Parallel theme): But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

Judges 1:24 (Parallel theme): And the spies saw a man come forth out of the city, and they said unto him, Shew us, we pray thee, the entrance into the city, and we will shew thee mercy.