

Psalms 118:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.

Analysis

I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. The pilgrim enters and fulfills the vow to praise (v. 19). Odcha (I will praise you) uses the cohortative—determined, volitional thanksgiving. The reason follows: **for thou hast heard me** (ki anitani). Anah (answer/respond) indicates God's attentiveness to prayer. He doesn't merely hear as passive observer but responds as active deliverer. Past answered prayer motivates present praise.

The second reason: **and art become my salvation** (vat'hi li lishu'ah). Hayah (become) indicates transformation—God didn't remain distant but became personally involved as Savior. Lishu'ah (for salvation) uses the root appearing throughout the psalm: yeshu'ah (salvation, deliverance, victory). God's saving acts span both physical deliverance (from enemies, danger, death) and spiritual redemption (from sin, judgment, separation). The verse encapsulates thanksgiving's dual foundation: God hears (relational attentiveness) and God saves (powerful intervention). These two truths motivate all genuine praise—God listens when we cry and acts to deliver.

Historical Context

Israel's worship centered on recounting answered prayers and experienced salvations. The Passover liturgy retold exodus deliverance. Festival psalms recounted God's mighty acts (Psalms 105-106, 135-136). Individual testimonies of answered prayer strengthened corporate faith (Psalms 30, 34, 66, 107). Hannah's

song celebrated answered prayer for a child (1 Samuel 2:1-10). Hezekiah's psalm thanked God for healing from terminal illness (Isaiah 38:9-20). The early church practiced public testimony of God's saving works (Acts 2:11, 4:20). Paul's letters overflow with thanksgiving for God's faithfulness (Romans 1:8, 1 Corinthians 1:4, Philippians 1:3, 1 Thessalonians 1:2). Revelation depicts elders and living creatures continuously praising God for creation and redemption (Revelation 4:8-11, 5:9-14). Heaven's worship is ceaseless declaration of God's hearing prayers and accomplishing salvation.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does recounting specific instances of answered prayer and experienced salvation deepen worship?
2. What is the relationship between God 'hearing' (relational attentiveness) and 'becoming salvation' (active deliverance)?
3. In what ways should believers cultivate habits of testimony—declaring how God has heard and saved?

Interlinear Text

א וְדָבַר	כִּי	עָנִיתָ נִי	וַתִּהְיֶה	לִי
I will praise	H3588	thee for thou hast heard	H1961	H0
H3034		H6030		

לִישׁוּעָה:
me and art become my salvation
H3444

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 116:1 (Parallel theme): I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.

Exodus 15:2 (Salvation): The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Isaiah 49:8 (Salvation): Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;

Psalms 118:14 (Salvation): The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

Isaiah 12:2 (Salvation): Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.