

Psalms 119:114

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

Analysis

Thou art my hiding place and my shield (סְתִּירִי וְמַגְנִי אַתָּה, sitri umaginni attah)—two military metaphors for divine protection. Seter (hiding place, shelter, secret place) suggests refuge from danger; magen (shield) suggests active defense in battle. David used identical language: **The LORD is my rock, and my fortress** (2 Sam 22:2-3). These are not abstract theological concepts but testimonies forged in actual persecution.

I hope in thy word (לִזְבַּחַ וַיְחַלֵּט, lidvarkha yichalti)—the verb yachal means to wait expectantly, trust with anticipation. Hope is anchored not in circumstances but in God's revealed promises. This verse links divine protection with word-centered faith. We find refuge in God by trusting His written promises. The Reformers' sola scriptura finds expression here—Scripture alone is our ultimate hiding place and shield against error, doubt, and attack.

Historical Context

David's fugitive years in caves and wilderness strongholds (1 Sam 22-24) give these metaphors visceral meaning. For later Israel facing exile or persecution, God's word became the only reliable fortress when physical sanctuaries were destroyed. This theology sustained Jews through diaspora and persecution.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. When do you most naturally run to God as your hiding place—and when do you seek other refuges?
2. How does hoping in God's word function as a shield against spiritual attacks and doubts?
3. What promises in Scripture serve as your primary hiding place during trials?

Interlinear Text

סְתָרִי	וְמַכְנֵה	אֶתְתָּה	לְדִבְרֶיךָ	בְּלֹתִי:
Thou art my hiding place	and my shield		in thy word	I hope
H5643	H4043	H859	H1697	H3176

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 32:7 (Parallel theme): Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Psalms 3:3 (Parallel theme): But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

Isaiah 32:2 (Parallel theme): And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

Psalms 119:81 (Word): My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word.

Psalms 119:74 (Word): They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word.

Psalms 84:11 (Parallel theme): For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org