

Psalms 119:121

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have done judgment and justice: leave me not to mine oppressors.

Analysis

I have done judgment and justice (אָשַׁר, asiti mishpat va-tsedeq)—The psalmist appeals to his own covenant faithfulness, not for merit-based justification but as ground to petition God for protection. Mishpat (judgment) and tsedeq (righteousness/justice) form a hendiadys expressing comprehensive obedience to God's revealed will.

Leave me not to mine oppressors—This plea assumes the covenant principle that God defends those who walk in His ways (Ps 37:28). The cry anticipates Christ's perfect fulfillment of all righteousness (Matt 3:15) and His advocacy for believers (1 John 2:1).

Historical Context

Psalm 119 is an elaborate acrostic poem where each eight-verse stanza begins with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Verses 121-128 form the Ayin (ע) section. Jewish tradition associates this psalm with David or exilic Jews meditating on Torah during Babylonian captivity.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does pursuing justice and righteousness give believers confidence to petition God for protection?
2. In what ways does Christ's perfect obedience serve as both your example and your legal standing before God?
3. When facing opposition, do you appeal to your own righteousness or Christ's imputed righteousness?

Interlinear Text

פָּנָּי תִּשְׁפֹּט טַבַּע שִׁיטָּה
AIN I have done judgment and justice H1077 leave
H6213 H4941 H6664 H3240

לְעִשְׁקָיו:

me not to mine oppressors

H6231

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 8:15 (Righteousness): And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice unto all his people.

Psalms 37:33 (Judgment): The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.

2 Corinthians 1:12 (Parallel theme): For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.