

Psalms 119:123

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Mine eyes fail for thy salvation, and for the word of thy righteousness.

Analysis

Mine eyes fail for thy salvation (כל עיני לישועתך, *kalu einai lishuatekha*)—The verb *kalah* means to be consumed, spent, exhausted. The psalmist's eyes waste away watching for God's deliverance (*yeshuah*), the same root as 'Jesus' (Yeshua = salvation). This longing parallels Simeon who waited for 'the consolation of Israel' (Luke 2:25-30).

The word of thy righteousness (לאמכת צדקה, *l'imrat tsidqekha*)—God's righteous promise. The psalmist waits not merely for deliverance but for God's righteous word to be vindicated and fulfilled.

Historical Context

The experience of straining eyes through prolonged watching was familiar in ancient warfare (watching for signals, rescue, or approaching armies). The Babylonian exile intensified Israel's longing for promised salvation—a hope that would wait centuries for the Messiah.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to wait for God's salvation with such intensity that your eyes 'fail'?
2. How does this verse's use of 'salvation' (yeshuah) point forward to Jesus as the embodiment of God's deliverance?
3. Are you waiting passively for God's promises, or actively watching with expectant faith?

Interlinear Text

אַל אָמַת תִּלְשֹׁעַת בָּם כֹּל וְעַיִן
Mine eyes fail for thy salvation and for the word of thy righteousness
H5869 H3615 H3444 H565 H6664

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 130:6 (Parallel theme): My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.

Psalms 69:3 (Parallel theme): I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God.

Psalms 143:7 (Parallel theme): Hear me speedily, O LORD: my spirit faileth: hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.