

Psalms 119:132

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name.

Analysis

Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me (פְּנֵה־עָלַי וְחַנּוּנִי, pneh-elai vechoneni)—Panah (turn, look) implies God's deliberate attention; chanan (be gracious, show favor) appears 13 times in Psalm 119. The request is for God's face to turn toward the petitioner with merciful regard, reversing divine hiddenness.

As thou usest to do unto those that love thy name (כַּמִּשְׁפָּט לְאַהֲבֵי שִׁמְךָ, k'mishpat l'ohavei shemekha)—Mishpat here means 'custom, ordinance, established practice.' The psalmist appeals to God's consistent pattern of showing mercy to those who love His name. Divine character creates covenant expectation.

Historical Context

The priestly blessing in Numbers 6:24-26 similarly prays, 'The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.' God's 'face' represents His presence, favor, and relational engagement. To seek God's face was central to Hebrew piety (2 Chr 7:14).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to ask God to 'look upon' you—are you comfortable under His gaze?
2. How does God's established pattern of mercy toward those who love His name give you confidence in prayer?
3. Do you love God's 'name' (His revealed character and reputation) or merely desire His blessings?

Interlinear Text

לֹאֲלֹכֶי י

Look
H6437

H413

וְחִנֵּי נִי

thou upon me and be merciful

H2603

כְּ מִשְׁפָּט ט

unto me as thou usest

H4941

לְאֵהֶב י

to do unto those that love

H157

שְׁמִי:

thy name

H8034

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 106:4 (Parallel theme): Remember me, O LORD, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation;

Psalms 119:124 (Grace): Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy, and teach me thy statutes.

Psalms 25:16 (Grace): Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted.

Psalms 25:18 (Parallel theme): Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins.

1 Samuel 1:11 (Parallel theme): And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and

not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

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