

Psalm 119:135

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes.

Analysis

Make thy face to shine upon thy servant (פָּנֵּּי בָּאֵר בְּעֵדֶךָ, paneika ha'er b'avdekha)—Or means to give light, illuminate, shine. This echoes the Aaronic blessing (Num 6:25) and recurs in Psalm 80:3, 7, 19. The shining face represents God's favor, pleasure, and manifest presence—the opposite of a hidden or angry face (Ps 27:9).

Teach me thy statutes (וְלִמְדֵּנִי אֶת-חֻקָּיךְ, v'lamdeni et-chuqeika)—Lamad (teach) + chuqqim (statutes, decrees). Divine illumination and instruction are linked—God's shining face includes teaching His ways. Light brings both warmth (favor) and clarity (understanding).

Historical Context

The tabernacle/temple menorah symbolized God's illuminating presence among His people. High priestly blessings invoked God's shining face. The ultimate fulfillment: 'In thy light shall we see light' (Ps 36:9), fulfilled in Christ, the light of the world (John 8:12).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What's the connection between experiencing God's favor (shining face) and learning His statutes?
2. How do you know when God's face is shining upon you versus when He seems distant?
3. Does your prayer life prioritize experiencing God's presence or merely receiving His benefits?

Interlinear Text

תְּשִׁיבֵנִי
Make thy face to shine upon thy servant and teach me thy statutes
H6440 H215 H5650 H3925 H853 H2706

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 4:6 (Parallel theme): There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.

Luke 24:45 (Parallel theme): Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Psalms 80:7 (Parallel theme): Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

Psalms 80:19 (Parallel theme): Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

Psalms 80:3 (Parallel theme): Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

Job 36:22 (Parallel theme): Behold, God exalteth by his power: who teacheth like him?