

Psalm 119:147

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word.

Analysis

I prevented the dawning of the morning (קָדַם תִּי בְּנֶשֶׁף, qiddamti va-neshef)—Qadam means to anticipate, come before, precede. The psalmist rose before dawn (neshef, twilight) to pray. **And cried: I hoped in thy word**—Pre-dawn prayer was not mere discipline but hope-driven petition, anchored in God's promises.

Jesus Himself practiced this: "Rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed" (Mark 1:35). The prophets received revelation in early morning (Isaiah 50:4). Giving God the firstfruits of the day, before the world's demands intrude, demonstrates priority and dependency. Hope in God's Word motivates the sacrifice of sleep and comfort.

Historical Context

Jewish prayer tradition included fixed times (Daniel 6:10), but the most devoted sought God before dawn. The Levites began temple service before sunrise. Early rising for prayer became a mark of piety in rabbinic Judaism.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does your morning routine reveal about the priority you place on seeking God before the day's demands?
2. How does 'hoping in God's word' transform prayer from duty to eager anticipation?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	בְּנֶשֶׁר	וְאָשַׁוּעַ	לִדְבָּרִיךְ	וְקָلְתִּי
I prevented	the dawning of the morning	and cried	in thy word	I hoped
H6923	H5399	H7768	H1697	H3176

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 5:3 (Parallel theme): My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

Mark 1:35 (Parallel theme): And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Psalms 56:4 (Word): In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

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

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

Psalms 42:8 (Parallel theme): Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

Psalms 88:13 (Parallel theme): But unto thee have I cried, O LORD; and in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee.

Isaiah 26:9 (Parallel theme): With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

Psalms 57:8 (Parallel theme): Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early.

Psalms 108:2 (Parallel theme): Awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early.

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