

Psalms 119:149

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hear my voice according unto thy lovingkindness: O LORD,
quicken me according to thy judgment.

Analysis

Hear my voice according unto thy lovingkindness (שְׁמָעָה קוֹלִי כְחֶסֶדְךָ, shim'ah qoli ke-chasdekha)—The appeal is based not on merit but on hesed, God's covenant love, steadfast loyalty, unfailing kindness. **O LORD, quicken me according to thy judgment** (mishpatekha, Thy just ruling)—The parallel phrase invokes God's justice alongside His mercy. Quicken (chayah) means to make alive, revive, preserve.

This dual appeal—hesed and mishpat, mercy and justice—reflects the cross. Romans 3:26 declares God "just and the justifier"—His justice satisfied, His mercy extended. Psalm 85:10 prophesies, "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed." At Calvary, God's lovingkindness and His judgment converge, enabling Him to quicken dead sinners without compromising holiness.

Historical Context

In covenant theology, hesed was God's loyal love toward Israel despite their unfaithfulness. The prophets appealed to this attribute when interceding for wayward Israel (Hosea 2:19, Micah 7:18-20).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does appealing to God's 'lovingkindness' rather than your own merit change the character of your prayers?
2. What does it mean to be 'quicken' (made alive) according to God's judgment, and how have you experienced this?

Interlinear Text

ק וְלִי	שְׁמַע ה	כְּחֶסֶדְךָ	יְהוָה
my voice	Hear	according unto thy lovingkindness	O LORD
H6963	H8085	H2617	H3068
כְּמִשְׁפָּטְךָ	תְּחַיֵּנִי		
me according to thy judgment	quicken		
H4941	H2421		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 63:7 (References Lord): I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.

Psalms 51:1 (Parallel theme): Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Psalms 119:40 (Parallel theme): Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness.

Psalms 55:2 (Parallel theme): Attend unto me, and hear me: I mourn in my complaint, and make a noise;

Psalms 109:21 (References Lord): But do thou for me, O GOD the Lord, for thy name's sake: because thy mercy is good, deliver thou me.

Psalms 69:16 (References Lord): Hear me, O LORD; for thy lovingkindness is good: turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies.

Psalms 119:156 (Judgment): Great are thy tender mercies, O LORD: quicken me according to thy judgments.

Psalms 119:25 (Parallel theme): My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.

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