

Psalms 119:153

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Consider mine affliction, and deliver me: for I do not forget thy law.

Analysis

Consider mine affliction, and deliver me (רָאֵה-וְעָלְצֵנִי וְחַלֹּצֵנִי, re'eh-onyi vechaltzeni)—The Resh (ר) stanza opens with a legal appeal: re'eh means 'look upon with judicial attention.' The psalmist grounds his petition in covenant loyalty: **I do not forget thy law** (לֹא שָׁכַחְתִּי תוֹרַתְךָ, toratekha lo shakhachti). Chalatz ('deliver') carries military connotations—God as warrior-rescuer pulling the faithful from enemy hands.

This verse anticipates Christ's cry from the cross, where affliction and covenant faithfulness meet. The psalmist's plea echoes through Gethsemane and Calvary, where perfect Torah-obedience endured ultimate oni (affliction) to deliver us.

Historical Context

Psalms 119, the longest chapter in Scripture (176 verses), is an elaborate acrostic poem—each eight-verse section begins with successive Hebrew letters. Verses 153-160 form the Resh (ר) section, traditionally associated with deliverance and seeing. Likely composed during exile or persecution, when Torah faithfulness meant suffering.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does maintaining faithfulness to God's Word in affliction demonstrate covenant loyalty rather than mere legalism?
2. In what ways does Jesus fulfill the psalmist's cry for deliverance while perfectly keeping the Law under affliction?
3. When facing suffering, how can remembering God's Torah (instruction) serve as grounds for confident prayer rather than self-justification?

Interlinear Text

רְאֵה	עָנִי י	וְחַלֵּצֵנִי	כִּי	תִּתְּנֵנִי וְכִתְּבָה	לֹא
RESH Consider	mine affliction	and deliver	H3588	thy law	H3808
H7200	H6040	H2502		H8451	
שְׁכַחְתִּי:					
me for I do not forget					
H7911					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:176 (Word): I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

Lamentations 5:1 (Parallel theme): Remember, O LORD, what is come upon us: consider, and behold our reproach.

Psalms 25:19 (Parallel theme): Consider mine enemies; for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred.

Psalms 9:13 (Parallel theme): Have mercy upon me, O LORD; consider my trouble which I suffer of them that hate me, thou that liftest me up from the gates of death:

Psalms 119:141 (Parallel theme): I am small and despised: yet do not I forget thy precepts.

Psalms 119:159 (Parallel theme): Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness.

Psalms 119:16 (Word): I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

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