

Psalms 119:154

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word.

Analysis

Plead my cause, and deliver me (רִיבָה רִיבִי וְגַאֲלֵנִי, rivah rivi uge'aleni)—Riv means 'contend at law, advocate, defend in court.' The psalmist summons God as covenant attorney. Ga'al ('deliver/redeem') is the kinsman-redeemer term—Boaz to Ruth, God to Israel. **Quicken me according to thy word** (chayeni, 'make me alive') connects life itself to divine promise.

This forensic language anticipates Romans 8:33-34: 'Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.' Christ our go'el both pleads our cause and pays our redemption price.

Historical Context

The legal language reflects ancient Near Eastern court proceedings, where the powerless needed advocates against oppressors. Israel's covenant with Yahweh included His role as divine Advocate (Exodus 23:6-8). The 'quicken' theme appears throughout Psalm 119 (vv. 25, 37, 40, 88, 107, 149, 154, 156, 159), linking spiritual vitality to God's Word.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God as your covenant Attorney change your approach to accusation and guilt?
2. What does it mean practically to ask God to 'quicken' you according to His Word rather than your feelings or circumstances?
3. How does Christ function as both our *Go'el* (Kinsman-Redeemer) and Advocate (1 John 2:1)?

Interlinear Text

הִיבֵהּ	רִיבִי	וְגָאֵל נִי	לְאַמְרֹתֶךָ	תְּנֵי:
Plead	my cause	and deliver	me according to thy word	me quicken
H7378	H7379	H1350	H565	H2421

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 24:15 (Parallel theme): The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.

Micah 7:9 (Parallel theme): I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.

Psalms 35:1 (Parallel theme): Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me.

Jeremiah 50:34 (Parallel theme): Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is his name: he shall thoroughly plead their cause, that he may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon.

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

Psalms 43:1 (Parallel theme): Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man.

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

Job 5:8 (Parallel theme): I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause:

Proverbs 22:23 (Parallel theme): For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

1 John 2:1 (Parallel theme): My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

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