

Psalms 119:164

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.

Analysis

Seven times a day do I praise thee (שֶׁבַע בַּיּוֹם הַלֵּלְתִּיךָ, sheva bayom hillalticha)—Sheva (seven) symbolizes completeness, perfection. Halal means 'praise, boast, celebrate, shine.' Not literal counting but comprehensive devotion. The reason? **Because of thy righteous judgments** (עַל מִשְׁפָּטֶי צִדְקָךָ, al mishpetei tzidqekha). Mishpetei tzedek—'judgments of righteousness,' God's just decrees themselves warrant continual praise.

This anticipates 1 Thessalonians 5:17: 'Pray without ceasing.' Revelation 4:8 shows creatures praising God 'day and night' without rest. The psalmist's sevenfold praise prefigures eternal worship rooted in God's righteous character.

Historical Context

Jewish tradition developed structured prayer times (Daniel prayed three times daily, Daniel 6:10), but Psalm 119:164 suggests even more frequent devotion. The number seven pervades Scripture's worship pattern—seven-day week, seventh-year sabbath, seven festivals. Continual praise reflects God's unceasing worthiness.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How can you cultivate a lifestyle of 'seven times a day' praise without it becoming empty ritual?
2. What does it reveal about spiritual maturity that the psalmist praises God specifically for His 'righteous judgments'?
3. How does understanding God's justice as praiseworthy (not merely tolerable) transform your view of His character?

Interlinear Text

שֶׁבַע	בְּיָמָם	לְהַלֵּל יְיָ	לְעַמְּךָ	יְהוָה	בְּיָמֶיךָ
Seven times	a day	do I praise	H5921	judgments	thee because of thy righteous
H7651	H3117	H1984		H4941	H6664

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:62 (Righteousness): At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.

Psalms 55:17 (Parallel theme): Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

Psalms 97:8 (Judgment): Zion heard, and was glad; and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of thy judgments, O LORD.