

Psalms 119:173

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts.

Analysis

Let thine hand help me (תְּהִי־יָדְךָ לְעֻזִּי, tehi-yadekha le'ozreni)—Yad ('hand') symbolizes divine power and action. Azar ('help, assist, support') acknowledges human inability and divine sufficiency. The basis: **for I have chosen thy precepts** (כִּי פִקֻּדְךָ בָּחַרְתִּי, ki fiqudekha vacharti). Bachar means 'choose, select, decide for.' The psalmist has made deliberate choice for piqudim (precepts, orders); now he needs God's hand to execute that choice.

This anticipates Philippians 2:12-13: 'Work out your own salvation...for it is God which worketh in you.' Human choice and divine enablement cooperate without contradiction.

Historical Context

The 'hand' of God features prominently in Scripture—delivering Israel from Egypt (Exodus 13:3), sustaining the weak (Psalm 37:24), guiding believers (Psalm 139:10). The verse shows that choosing God's precepts doesn't produce self-sufficiency but greater dependence on divine help to fulfill the choice.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does your daily need for God's 'hand' to help you demonstrate the relationship between human responsibility and divine grace?
2. In what specific area have you chosen God's precepts but now need His hand to empower obedience?
3. How does Jesus's dependence on the Father's hand/power (John 5:19—'The Son can do nothing of himself') model the psalmist's petition?

Interlinear Text

תְּהִי	יָדְךָ	לְעֶזְרִי	כִּי	פִקְדוֹתֶיךָ	בְּחַרְתִּי:
H1961	Let thine hand	help	H3588	thy precepts	me for I have chosen
	H3027	H5826		H6490	H977

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