

Psalm 119:174

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight.

Analysis

I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD (תָּאַבְתִּי לַיְשׁוֹעָתֶךָ יְהֹוָה) ta'avti lishu'atekha YHWH)—Ta'av means 'long for, desire deeply, crave.' Yeshu'ah (salvation, deliverance, the root of Yeshua/Jesus) is the object of intense longing. The conjunction: **and thy law is my delight** (וְתָוֹךְתָּבְשָׁעַשְׁעִי, veteoratekha sha'ashu'ai). Sha'ashua means 'delight, pleasure, enjoyment'—the same word in Isaiah 5:7 describing Israel as God's 'pleasant plant.'

This echoes Simeon's cry: 'Mine eyes have seen thy salvation [to soterion, from yeshu'ah]' (Luke 2:30). Longing for salvation and delighting in Torah unite in Christ—He IS both the yeshu'ah and the Torah incarnate.

Historical Context

The penultimate verse of Psalm 119 returns to the salvation theme (v. 123, 155, 166, 174) while maintaining the Torah-delight theme (v. 16, 24, 47, 70, 77, 92, 143, 174). The already/not-yet tension: we delight in present Torah-obedience while longing for ultimate salvation. Christians experience this as enjoying Christ now while awaiting glorification.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does delighting in God's Law intensify (rather than diminish) your longing for final salvation?
2. What would it look like practically to cultivate both deep longing for Christ's return AND present delight in His Word?
3. How does Jesus fulfill both aspects—salvation longed for AND Torah delighted in—as the Word made flesh?

Interlinear Text

שְׁאַלְפָנִים בְּתִי תְּזַבְּחָתָב לִשְׁוֹעָתָב הִנֵּה וְתַדְבֵּר תְּזַבְּחָתָב שְׁאַלְפָנִים
I have longed for thy salvation O LORD and thy law is my delight
H8373 H3444 H3068 H8451 H8191

Additional Cross-References

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

Psalms 119:162 (Word): I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.