

Psalms 119:175

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me.

Analysis

Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee (תְּחִי־נֶפֶשִׁי וְתִפְלֶבֶת) techi-nafshi utehallekha)—Chayah ('live, have life, be quickened') with nefesh (soul, life, self) as subject. Life's purpose: halal ('praise, celebrate, boast in') God. The means: **and let thy judgments help me** (וְמִשְׁפָטֶךָ יָעַזְרָנִי, umishpatekha ya'azruni). Mishpatim (judgments, verdicts, ordinances) provide ezer (help, assistance)—the same word used of Eve as Adam's ezer kenegdo (helper corresponding to him, Genesis 2:18).

The final verse of Scripture's longest chapter encapsulates its message: life exists for God's praise, enabled by God's revealed judgments. This anticipates Westminster Shorter Catechism Q1: 'Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.'

Historical Context

Psalm 119 concludes not with arrival but with petition—the spiritual life remains dependent on God's sustaining grace. The final Taw (ת) verse completes the Hebrew alphabet, suggesting exhaustive treatment of the Word's sufficiency. Yet the psalmist still prays, modeling perpetual dependence on divine help unto praise.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does understanding life's purpose as praising God ('let my soul live, and it shall praise thee') reorient your daily priorities?
2. In what ways do God's judgments (mishpatim) 'help' you rather than merely constrain you?
3. How does Christ's resurrection life (Romans 6:4—'walk in newness of life') fulfill the psalmist's prayer for soul-life that praises God?

Interlinear Text

לִזְרָנִי	מְשִׁפְטָךְ	תְּבָלֵל	בְּנֵי	פָּשִׁי	תְּחִי	לִזְרָנִי
help	judgments	confuse	sons	praise	let it shall	live
H5826	H4941	H1984	H5315	H2421		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 55:3 (Parallel theme): Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

Isaiah 38:19 (Resurrection): The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth.

Psalms 30:9 (Resurrection): What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Shall the dust praise thee? shall it declare thy truth?

Romans 8:28 (Parallel theme): And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

