

Psalms 119:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.

Analysis

My soul cleaveth unto the dust—(לְבָקַח־לְעֹפֵר נֶפֶשׁ) The verb davaq (cling, cleave) describes desperate adhesion, the same word used of covenant marriage (Genesis 2:24). The psalmist feels death's gravitational pull toward afar (dust), recalling God's curse on sin (Genesis 3:19). **Quicken me according to thy word** (חַיֵּנִי כִּדְבָרֶךָ)—Only God's dabar (word) has resurrection power. The plea for chayah (to make alive, revive) anticipates Christ who conquered death and declared "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25).

This Daleth (daleth) stanza opens with spiritual depression so profound it feels like dying. Yet even in this dark valley, the psalmist clings to Scripture as the sole source of revival. The tension between clinging to dust and crying for life captures the believer's struggle against indwelling sin.

Historical Context

Written during Israel's monarchy, likely by David or another Levitical poet. Ancient Near Eastern laments often used dust imagery for death, mourning, and humiliation. The psalmist writes from either physical exile, spiritual depression, or persecution—all common experiences for God's people under the old covenant.

Related Passages

[Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth](#)

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. When your soul 'cleaves to the dust' of depression or sin, how does God's Word specifically revive you?
2. What does it mean that the same verb (davaq) describes both clinging to dust and cleaving to God—where is your soul truly adhering?
3. How does this verse's plea for quickening point forward to the resurrection life believers have in Christ?

Interlinear Text

דָבַרְתָּנִי לְעֵפֶת רֵדֶת הַנֶּפֶשׁ יְנַפֵּשְׁנִי מִלְּבָדֶךָ
cleaveth unto the dust DALETH My soul quicken thou me according to thy word
H1692 H6083 H5315 H2421 H1697

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:159 (Parallel theme): Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness.

Psalms 71:20 (Parallel theme): Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

Colossians 3:2 (Parallel theme): Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Psalms 143:11 (Parallel theme): Quicken me, O LORD, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

Psalms 44:25 (Parallel theme): For our soul is bowed down to the dust: our belly cleaveth unto the earth.

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

Psalms 119:93 (Parallel theme): I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me.

Psalms 119:156 (Parallel theme): Great are thy tender mercies, O LORD: quicken me according to thy judgments.

Psalms 80:18 (Parallel theme): So will not we go back from thee: quicken us, and we will call upon thy name.

Psalms 119:37 (Parallel theme): Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

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