

Psalms 119:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me:
for I trust in thy word.

Analysis

So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me (וְאָעֲנֶה חֹרְפִי) —Anah (to answer, respond) follows from verse 41's mercies and salvation. Chorfi (the one reproaching me) is the scoffer who mocks covenant faith. Davar (word, matter) is the substance of the answer—experiencing God's salvation provides testimony to silence skeptics. **For I trust in thy word** (כִּי־בִטַּחְתִּי בְדִבְרְךָ) —Batach (to trust, rely upon) is confident dependence on God's dabar (word). The reproacher mocks this trust; God's merciful salvation vindicates it.

This verse presents apologetics rooted in experience: the answer to mockers isn't clever argument but demonstrated deliverance. When God fulfills His word through salvation, the believer has evidence to silence reproach. This is 1 Peter 3:15's 'reason for the hope' grounded not in speculation but God's faithfulness. The pattern continues: scoffers mock faith (2 Peter 3:3-4), believers trust God's word, God acts, faith is vindicated. Ultimately Christ's resurrection answers all reproach against trusting God's promises.

Historical Context

Ancient Israel faced constant mockery from pagan nations: 'Where is your God?' (Psalm 42:3, 79:10). The psalmist needs experiential salvation to answer skeptics. This apologetic pattern appears throughout Scripture—God vindicates His people not through persuasive words but mighty acts of deliverance that silence mockers and attract nations to Himself.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How has God's faithfulness to His word in your experience given you testimony to answer skeptics and scoffers?
2. What reproaches against biblical faith do you face, and how does personal experience of God's salvation equip you to respond?
3. How does Christ's resurrection serve as the ultimate 'answer' to all reproach against trusting God's promises?

Interlinear Text

וְאָמַרְתָּ הָ	חֹרֶף י	בְּדִבְרֶיךָ:	כִּי	כִּי טַחֲתִי
to answer	him that reproacheth	So shall I have wherewith	H3588	me for I trust
H6030	H2778	H1697		H982

בְּדִבְרֶיךָ:
So shall I have wherewith
H1697

Additional Cross-References

Acts 27:25 (Faith): Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

Matthew 27:63 (Parallel theme): Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

Psalms 119:74 (Word): They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word.

Psalms 119:49 (Word): Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope.

Psalms 119:81 (Word): My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word.

Proverbs 27:11 (Parallel theme): My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me.

Psalms 56:4 (Faith): In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

Psalms 42:10 (Word): As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is thy God?

Psalms 3:2 (Parallel theme): Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. Selah.