

Psalms 119:55

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have remembered thy name, O LORD, in the night, and have kept thy law.

Analysis

I have remembered thy name, O LORD, in the night, and have kept thy law.

The phrase **in the night** (בַּלַּיְלָה, balaylah) suggests both literal nighttime meditation and metaphorical darkness of affliction. **Thy name** (שִׁמְךָ, shimkha) represents God's revealed character and covenant identity—particularly **LORD** (יְהוָה, Yahweh), the personal covenant name disclosed at the burning bush.

The connection between remembering God's name and keeping His law reveals that obedience flows from relationship. The psalmist doesn't keep Torah to gain favor but because he knows Yahweh personally. This anticipates Jesus's teaching: 'If you love me, keep my commandments' (John 14:15). Nighttime remembrance also reflects sustained devotion—maintaining faith when no one watches.

Historical Context

Night watches were significant in ancient Israel—temple guards maintained vigil, and devout individuals practiced nocturnal prayer (Psalm 63:6, 119:62, 148). Jesus Himself prayed through the night (Luke 6:12). The practice emphasized undistracted communion with God when daily duties ceased. Remembering God's name in darkness reflected trust when circumstances obscured His presence.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What spiritual disciplines do you maintain 'in the night' when no one else observes your faithfulness?
2. How does meditating on God's covenant name (Yahweh—'I AM') strengthen obedience during dark circumstances?
3. In what ways might nighttime prayer or Scripture meditation deepen your relationship with God?

Interlinear Text

אֲנִי כִּי רָחֵמְךָ	בַּלַּיְלָה	שְׁמֶךָ	יְהוָה	וְאֶשְׁמְרָךְ	תּוֹכַחֲתְךָ
I have remembered	in the night	thy name	O LORD	and have kept	thy law
H2142	H3915	H8034	H3068	H8104	H8451

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 63:6 (Parallel theme): When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches.

Psalms 42:8 (References Lord): Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

Isaiah 26:9 (Parallel theme): With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

Acts 16:25 (Parallel theme): And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

