

Psalm 119:62

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.

Analysis

At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments. The phrase **at midnight** (חַצּוֹת־לִילָה, chatzot-laylah)—literally 'the dividing of the night'—represents the darkest, deepest part of night when sleep is sweetest. Rising then demonstrates extraordinary devotion and deliberate sacrifice of comfort. Paul and Silas prayed and sang at midnight in prison (Acts 16:25), modeling worship in darkness.

To give thanks (להודות, lehodot) unto God not for personal blessing but **because of thy righteous judgments** (מִשְׁפָטֶיךָ, mishpetei tzidqekha)—thanksgiving for God's character and righteous governance, not merely His gifts. This mature worship praises God for who He is, even before deliverance comes. It echoes Habakkuk's resolution to rejoice in God despite devastation (Habakkuk 3:17-18).

Historical Context

Jewish tradition developed fixed hours of prayer, including night watches. The temple service included nocturnal offerings and Levitical singers. Devout individuals practiced midnight vigils, seeking undistracted communion with God. This practice influenced Christian monasticism and the Anglican/Lutheran tradition of liturgical hours. Jesus often withdrew for night prayer (Luke 6:12), and early churches gathered before dawn (Acts 20:7-11).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What would motivate you to interrupt sleep specifically to give thanks—what would demonstrate that priority in practice?
2. Can you genuinely thank God for His 'righteous judgments' even when circumstances are painful or unclear?
3. How might practicing gratitude during 'midnight' seasons of life transform your spiritual maturity and worship?

Interlinear Text

מִשְׁפָטִים עַל־לְהֹדֶן וְאֶלְמָנָה
judgments unto thee because of thy righteousness

At midnight H3915 I will rise H6965 to give thanks H3034 judgments H4941

בְּעֵד־צְדָקָתֶךָ
unto thee because of thy righteousness

H6664

Additional Cross-References

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

Mark 1:35 (Parallel theme): And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Psalms 42:8 (Parallel theme): 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.

Psalms 119:164 (Righteousness): Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.

Psalms 119:7 (Righteousness): I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.

Psalms 119:137 (Righteousness): Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments.

Psalms 119:75 (Judgment): I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

Psalms 119:147 (Parallel theme): I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word.

Romans 7:12 (Righteousness): Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

Psalms 19:9 (Righteousness): The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

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