

Psalms 119:75

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

Analysis

I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right — (יְדַעְתִּי יְהֹוָה פֵּצֶק מְשֻׁפְּטִיךְ) yada'ti (I know) signals certain knowledge, not speculation. God's mishpatim (judgments/ordinances) possess tzedek (righteousness), even when they bring suffering. **And that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me** (וְאַתָּה עַפְתָּנִי) reveals stunning theology: affliction (innitani) flows from divine emunah (faithfulness), not cruelty.

This echoes Hebrews 12:6-11—the Lord disciplines those He loves. The psalmist has reached Job's conclusion (Job 23:10): God's refining fire proves covenant love. Paul likewise embraced the paradox that weakness manifests God's strength (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). Divine faithfulness sometimes hurts, but it never harms.

Historical Context

Exile theology grappled with theodicy: how can a righteous God afflict His people? The answer: suffering serves covenant purposes—purification, testing, and deepening dependence. This theology prepared Israel for the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 and ultimately for Christ's redemptive suffering.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Can you identify times when God's faithfulness to you included painful discipline rather than immediate relief?
2. How does affirming God's righteousness in affliction differ from stoic resignation or fatalism?
3. What aspects of God's character have you learned through suffering that you could not have grasped in prosperity?

Interlinear Text

בְּאֶמְתָּה הָיָה יְהֹוָה יְהֹוָה יְהֹוָה
I know O LORD are right that thy judgments and that thou in faithfulness
H3045 H3068 H3588 H6664 H4941 H530

עֲבִיתָנִי:
hast afflicted
H6031

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 3:19 (Parallel theme): As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Psalms 119:62 (Judgment): At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.

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

Psalms 25:10 (References Lord): All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Psalms 119:128 (Parallel theme): Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.

Psalms 119:160 (Judgment): Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

Job 34:23 (Judgment): For he will not lay upon man more than right; that he should enter into judgment with God.

Genesis 18:25 (Judgment): That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Deuteronomy 32:4 (Judgment): He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

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