

Psalms 119:77

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.

Analysis

Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live (יְבֹאֵנִי רַחֲמֶיךָ וְאַחִיָּה)—rachamekha (thy tender mercies) from rechem (womb) conveys motherly compassion. The plural intensifies: mercies upon mercies. Ve'echyeh (that I may live) reveals desperation—without God's compassion, death looms. This echoes Lamentations 3:22-23: 'It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed.'

For thy law is my delight (כִּי־תוֹרַתְךָ שְׂשׂוֹנִי) gives motivation: his sha'ashu'ai (delight/joy) centers on God's torah. Even in extremity, Scripture brings pleasure—not grim duty but genuine joy. This paradox appears throughout Psalm 119: suffering intensifies rather than diminishes love for God's Word.

Historical Context

The Hebrew concept of life (chayah) encompasses far more than biological existence—it means vitality, flourishing, covenant relationship. To 'live' means to dwell in God's favor. The delight in Torah despite affliction demonstrates that spiritual sustenance transcends circumstances.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. When has God's mercy felt like the difference between spiritual death and life for you?
2. How can suffering deepen rather than diminish your delight in Scripture?
3. What does it reveal about God's character that His mercies are described with womb-like tenderness?

Interlinear Text

יְבֹא וְנִי	בְּחַמֵּי יְיָ	וְאֶחָי הֵ	כִּי	תִּוְכַתֵּב
come	Let thy tender mercies	unto me that I may live	H3588	for thy law
H935	H7356	H2421		H8451

נֶשְׁמָתִי שְׂשׂוּי:
is my delight
H8191

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:174 (Word): I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight.

Psalms 119:41 (Word): Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, according to thy word.

Psalms 119:24 (Light): Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.

Psalms 1:2 (Word): But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 119:47 (Word): And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.