

Psalms 120:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace.

Analysis

The lament continues: 'My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace.' The word 'soul' (Hebrew 'nephesh') denotes the whole person - mind, emotions, and will. The phrase 'long dwelt' emphasizes extended suffering; this is not momentary discomfort but sustained trial. Those who 'hateth peace' are characterized by hostility, conflict, and discord. The psalmist mourns being forced to coexist with contentious, quarrelsome neighbors. For God's people, whose covenant relationship is defined by shalom (peace, wholeness, harmony), living among peace-haters creates profound tension. This verse describes the spiritual weariness of maintaining faithfulness in hostile environments. The longing expressed here finds ultimate resolution only in God's eternal kingdom, where peace reigns perfectly.

Historical Context

Ancient Israel's identity centered on being a people of peace under God's covenant. The priestly blessing promised peace (Numbers 6:24-26), and the Messiah would be the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). Living among those who rejected peace violated the covenant community's essential character. This tension would intensify during periods of exile, persecution, or diaspora.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What spiritual and emotional toll comes from 'long dwelling' in hostile environments?
2. How do believers maintain peace within themselves while living among those who 'hate peace'?
3. What does it mean to be a peacemaker (Matthew 5:9) in contexts characterized by conflict?
4. How does the psalmist's longing for peace point forward to Christ as the Prince of Peace?
5. In what ways might prolonged exposure to ungodly influences affect our spiritual health?

Interlinear Text

חַ	בֵּית	שָׁכָנָה	לִּי	נַפְשִׁי	אֶ	עִמּוֹ	שׁוֹנֵי	אֵלַי	שְׁלוֹמִי
hath long	dwelt	H0	My soul	H5973	with him that hateth	peace			
H7227	H7931		H5315		H8130	H7965			

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 10:16 (Parallel theme): Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Psalms 57:4 (Parallel theme): My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.

Matthew 10:36 (Parallel theme): And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

Ezekiel 2:6 (Parallel theme): And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.

