

Psalms 121:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

Analysis

YHWH yishmor tzeitkha u'vo'ekha me'atah v'ad olam (The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore). Yatzta (go out) and bo (come in) form a merism encompassing all activity and movement. Me'atah (from now); ad olam (until forever). The promise spans both activities (all comings/goings) and time (present to eternity). Numbers 27:17 and Deuteronomy 28:6 use similar language for comprehensive blessing. This closing verse summarizes the Psalm: God's protective care covers every activity, every time, forever. It began with looking to hills (v.1) and concludes with eternal preservation.

Historical Context

Ancient benedictions blessed "going out and coming in" (Deuteronomy 28:6), covering all ventures—whether warfare, travel, daily work, or household activities. David's successful military campaigns exemplified God preserving his going out and coming in (1 Samuel 18:5, 13-14, 2 Samuel 8:6, 14). The phrase became liturgical blessing. Jewish tradition uses this Psalm as traveler's prayer. The ultimate "going out" is death; ultimate "coming in" is entering God's presence. The promise extends from present temporal activities through death into eternal life. God's preserving care spans time and eternity.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What specific "going out" and "coming in" activities in your life require divine preservation?
2. How does the promise of eternal preservation ("forevermore") affect present anxieties?
3. In what ways has God's past preservation of your "comings and goings" strengthened trust for future uncertainties?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה ה	יִשְׁמְרֶה	צֵאתְךָ	וּבֹאֶךָ	מִן, עַתָּה ה
The LORD	shall preserve	thy going out	and thy coming in	H6258
H3068	H8104	H3318	H935	
	וְעַד	עוֹלָם:		
	from this time forth and even for	evermore		
	H5704	H5769		

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 28:6 (Parallel theme): Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

Proverbs 2:8 (Parallel theme): He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

Proverbs 3:6 (Parallel theme): In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Ezra 8:31 (Parallel theme): Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way.

Psalms 113:2 (References Lord): Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore.

Psalms 115:18 (References Lord): But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and for evermore. Praise the LORD.

2 Samuel 5:2 (References Lord): Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.

Ezra 8:21 (Parallel theme): Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

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