

Psalm 125:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever.

Analysis

The protective imagery continues: 'As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever.' This verse employs geographic reality as theological metaphor. Jerusalem is naturally surrounded by mountains (Mount of Olives to east, Mount Scopus to north, Hinnom Valley hills to south and west), creating a protective amphitheater. The comparison 'so the LORD is round about his people' transforms physical geography into spiritual reality - God Himself encircles and protects His people. The word 'round about' (Hebrew 'sabib') suggests complete encirclement, defense from all directions. The temporal scope 'from henceforth even for ever' extends divine protection from present moment into eternity. This isn't temporary security but permanent covenant promise. The verse assures that God's defensive presence surrounds His people more reliably than mountains surround Jerusalem.

Historical Context

Ancient cities relied on geographic features for defense. Jerusalem's mountain setting provided strategic advantage and made siege difficult. However, the city did fall multiple times (Babylon, Rome), demonstrating that physical mountains don't guarantee security. Only God's presence provides ultimate protection. The psalm directs trust beyond geography to the God who stands behind the mountains.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does physical geography serve as effective metaphor for spiritual reality?
2. What does it mean that the LORD is 'round about' His people, providing complete protection?
3. How does this promise of eternal protection square with the reality that believers suffer and die?
4. In what ways is God's protection superior to physical mountains or military defenses?
5. How should awareness of God's encircling presence shape daily life and decision-making?

Interlinear Text

יְרוֹשָׁלָם קָרִים בָּבִיב לְהִיא יְהֹוָה so the LORD
Jerusalem As the mountains are round about H3068
H3389 H2022 H5439

עַלְמָם: כִּי עַתָּה לְעַמּוֹ בָּבִיב וְעַד
ever from henceforth even for his people are round about H5769
H5439 H5971 H6258 H5704

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 2:5 (References Lord): For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.

Isaiah 4:5 (References Lord): And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence.

Psalms 121:8 (References Lord): The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

Deuteronomy 33:27 (Parallel theme): The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

Psalms 34:7 (References Lord): The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Lamentations 4:12 (References Jerusalem): The kings of the earth, and all the inhabitants of the world, would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy should have entered into the gates of Jerusalem.