

# Psalm 129:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD is righteous: he hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked.

## Analysis

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Divine intervention is confessed: 'The LORD is righteous: he hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked.' The word 'righteous' (Hebrew 'tsaddiq') describes God's justice, faithfulness to covenant, and moral perfection. This attribute explains why God intervened - His righteousness required defending His people and judging oppressors. The phrase 'cut asunder the cords' pictures God severing the ropes or chains that bound Israel. 'Cords of the wicked' represent bondage, oppression, and control enemies exercised. The imagery shifts from plowing (v. 3) to binding and cutting - enemies not only wounded but enslaved; God not only healed but liberated. The verb 'cut asunder' (Hebrew 'qatsats') means to sever completely, leaving no partial attachment. God's deliverance is thorough, not incomplete. This verse provides the theological center of the psalm - God's righteous character guarantees His intervention against oppressors.

## Historical Context

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Throughout Israel's history, God intervened to break oppressive bonds - Egyptian slavery ended, Babylonian exile concluded, enemy plots failed. Each deliverance demonstrated God's righteousness and covenant faithfulness. The pattern of bondage-to-freedom formed Israel's core narrative (Exodus) and repeated throughout history.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's righteousness explain His intervention against oppressors?
2. What are 'the cords of the wicked' that bind God's people, and how does God cut them?
3. Why is the imagery of cutting cords appropriate for describing deliverance?
4. How does this verse balance God's sovereignty (He cuts) with human experience of bondage?
5. In what ways does Christ's work involve cutting asunder the cords that bind humanity?

## Interlinear Text

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רַשְׁעִים: עֲבָדָות קָרָא יְהִי הָרָא צָדִיק  
of the wicked: the cords he hath cut asunder is righteous The LORD  
H7563 H5688 H7112 H6662 H3068

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 119:137** (Righteousness): Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments.

**Lamentations 3:22** (References Lord): It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

**Nehemiah 9:33** (Righteousness): Howbeit thou art just in all that is brought upon us; for thou hast done right, but we have done wickedly:

**Lamentations 1:18** (Righteousness): The LORD is righteous; for I have rebelled against his commandment: hear, I pray you, all people, and behold my sorrow: my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity.

**Daniel 9:7** (Righteousness): O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.

**Ezra 9:15** (Righteousness): O LORD God of Israel, thou art righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as it is this day: behold, we are before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this.

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