

Psalms 130:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

Analysis

The response to forgiveness is patient waiting: 'I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.' The verb 'wait' (Hebrew 'qavah') means to look for, hope, expect with confident anticipation - not passive resignation but active expectation. The repetition 'I wait...my soul doth wait' emphasizes comprehensive waiting - whole-person expectation. 'My soul' (nephesh) represents the entire being - mind, will, emotions. The parallel phrase 'in his word do I hope' specifies the basis for waiting - God's revealed promises. Hope (Hebrew 'yachal') means to wait expectantly, trust. The verse models proper response to assurance of forgiveness (v. 4) - patient trust in God's character and promises. Waiting acknowledges that timing is God's prerogative; hoping demonstrates confidence that He will act. This verse balances present reality (still in depths) with future confidence (God will deliver).

Historical Context

Israel's history required extended waiting - Egyptian slavery (400 years), Babylonian exile (70 years), Messianic expectation (centuries). God's word sustained faith during long periods without visible deliverance. The pattern of promise-waiting-fulfillment forms biblical narrative structure, teaching God's people to trust His timing.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does waiting for the LORD differ from merely waiting for circumstances to change?
2. What does it mean that 'my soul' waits - how is this more than intellectual agreement?
3. How does God's 'word' sustain hope during extended waiting?
4. What is the relationship between forgiveness (v. 4) and waiting (v. 5)?
5. How do believers cultivate patient, confident waiting rather than anxious or passive waiting?

Interlinear Text

קִוֵּיָה	לַיהוָה	קִוֵּיָה	נַפְשִׁי	וּלְדִבְרֵי	הוֹסֵלֵתִי:
I wait	for the LORD	I wait	my soul	and in his word	do I hope
H6960	H3068	H6960	H5315	H1697	H3176

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 33:20 (References Lord): Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield.

Isaiah 30:18 (References Lord): And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

Psalms 119:81 (Word): My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word.

Psalms 62:5 (Parallel theme): My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.

Psalms 27:14 (References Lord): Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Psalms 40:1 (References Lord): I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

Psalms 62:1 (Parallel theme): Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.

Isaiah 8:17 (References Lord): And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.

Psalms 119:74 (Word): They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word.

Psalms 119:114 (Word): Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.