

Psalm 131:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child.

Analysis

The positive alternative to pride is described with tender imagery: 'Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child.' The word 'surely' (Hebrew) provides strong affirmation. The phrase 'behaved and quieted myself' describes intentional cultivation of peace and composure. 'Behaved' (Hebrew 'shavah') means to make level, smooth, equalize. 'Quieted' (damam) means to be silent, still, at rest. The comparison 'as a child that is weaned' uses infant imagery. A weaned child (typically 2-3 years old in ancient context) has transitioned from nursing to other food - no longer demanding, anxious, or fussing for breast. The weaned child rests contentedly on mother's lap without demanding nursing. Similarly, David's soul rests contentedly in God's presence without demanding or grasping. This pictures mature trust that has moved beyond immature demands to peaceful rest in God's provision and presence. The repetition 'my soul is even as a weaned child' emphasizes the comprehensive nature of this rest - the whole person is at peace.

Historical Context

Weaning was a significant transition in ancient Israel, often accompanied by celebration (Genesis 21:8). The metaphor would resonate powerfully with people familiar with nursing and weaning processes. The imagery of God as mother appears occasionally in Scripture (Isaiah 49:15; 66:13), complementing more frequent father imagery, emphasizing God's nurturing care.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What is the significance of a 'weaned' child rather than a nursing infant?
2. How does the weaned child imagery illustrate mature trust versus immature demanding?
3. What does it mean to 'behave and quiet' oneself - is this passive resignation or active cultivation?
4. How does this verse contrast with worldly ambition and restless striving?
5. In what ways do believers transition from nursing stage (demanding immediate gratification) to weaned stage (content rest in God's presence)?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	לִ	אָמַ	לְ	אָמַ	שׁוֹרֵתִי	וְדֹמֵתִ מְתִי	נְפָשִׁי	כִּי	לִ	כִּי	לִ
H518	H3808	Surely I have behaved			H7737	and quieted	H1826	my soul	as a child that is weaned		H1580
עַל	וְ	אָמַ	וְ	כִּי	לִ	כִּי	עַל	וְ	נְפָשִׁי	וְ	כִּי
H5921	of his mother	as a child that is weaned		H1580		H5921	my soul		H5315		

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 14:20 (Parallel theme): Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

Mark 10:15 (Parallel theme): Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

Psalms 43:5 (Parallel theme): Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

Psalms 42:11 (Parallel theme): Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

Luke 21:19 (Parallel theme): In your patience possess ye your souls.

Isaiah 30:15 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

Psalms 42:5 (Parallel theme): Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

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

Lamentations 3:26 (Parallel theme): It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

1 Samuel 30:6 (Parallel theme): And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.