

Psalms 131:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let Israel hope in the LORD from henceforth and for ever.

Analysis

Personal testimony becomes corporate exhortation: 'Let Israel hope in the LORD from henceforth and for ever.' David's individual experience of humble contentment (vv. 1-2) becomes basis for calling all Israel to hope. The command 'let Israel hope' makes confident trust a duty for God's people. The word 'hope' (yachal) means to wait expectantly, trust confidently - same word used in Psalm 130:7. The temporal scope 'from henceforth and for ever' extends hope from present moment into eternity. Hope is not temporary expedient but permanent posture. The verse demonstrates that personal spiritual maturity should encourage corporate faith. David's humble trust becomes model for Israel's relationship with God. This ending transforms what could have been merely personal piety into communal exhortation, showing that individual faith affects and should strengthen the entire covenant community.

Historical Context

The pattern of personal testimony leading to corporate call appears throughout Songs of Ascents, reflecting their use in pilgrimage and communal worship. David's exhortation 'let Israel hope' parallels Psalm 130:7 exactly, suggesting these psalms were understood together as collection. The call to hope 'from henceforth and for ever' envisions multi-generational faithfulness.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does David's personal humility (vv. 1-2) provide foundation for corporate exhortation (v. 3)?
2. Why does humble contentment lead to hope rather than passive resignation?
3. What is the relationship between individual spiritual maturity and corporate community health?
4. How does calling Israel to hope 'for ever' shape long-term, generational faithfulness?
5. In what ways should believers' personal walk with God encourage and strengthen others?

Interlinear Text

לִּיְהוָה יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵלֵינוּ יְהוָה הַמֶּלֶךְ הַגָּדוֹל
hope **Let Israel** H413 **in the LORD** H6258 **from henceforth and for**
H3176 H3478 H3068 H5704

עוֹלָם:
ever
H5769

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 130:7 (Hope): Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.

Isaiah 26:4 (References Lord): Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

Psalms 146:5 (Hope): Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God:

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

