

Psalms 138:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me:
thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine
enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

Analysis

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me. This verse transitions from theological principle to personal testimony, declaring God's faithful protection and deliverance during crisis. David speaks from experience—he knew trouble intimately through years of persecution, warfare, and opposition.

"Though I walk in the midst of trouble" (אם-אלך בקָרְבָּךְ/im-elekh beqerev tzarah) acknowledges the reality of ongoing adversity. Tzarah means trouble, distress, affliction, tight places. The phrase "in the midst" (בְּקָרְבָּךְ/beqerev) suggests being surrounded by trouble, walking through the center of adversity. David doesn't claim exemption from trouble but confidence within it. The Christian life doesn't bypass affliction but walks through it with divine presence.

"Thou wilt revive me" (תְּחַיֵּנִי/techayeni) from chayah means to live, restore life, preserve alive, revive, give vitality. When trouble threatens to overwhelm and destroy, God restores life and vitality. This isn't merely physical survival but spiritual renewal—God revives the soul, restores hope, renews strength. Isaiah 57:15 promises God will "revive the heart of the contrite ones."

"Thou shalt stretch forth thine hand" (תִּשְׁלַח יָדֶךָ/tishlach yadekha) depicts God's active intervention. The stretched-forth hand represents divine power exercised on

behalf of His people. Exodus repeatedly describes God's mighty hand and outstretched arm delivering Israel from Egypt (Exodus 6:6, Deuteronomy 26:8). God doesn't passively observe His people's trouble but actively intervenes.

"Against the wrath of mine enemies" (בְּאָף אֵיבָי/be'af oyevai) indicates hostile opposition. Af means anger, wrath, nose (flaring with anger). David's enemies weren't merely inconvenient but hostile, angry, dangerous. Yet God's hand is directed against their wrath—neutralizing, deflecting, defeating their hostile intent.

"Thy right hand shall save me" (תָּשִׁיבָּנִי יְמִינְךָ/toshieni yeminekha) culminates with salvation. The right hand represents strength, power, honor, skill. God's right hand accomplished redemption. Exodus 15:6 celebrates: "Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy." Yasha (save) means deliver, rescue, give victory, bring salvation—the root of "Jesus" (Yeshua), meaning "Yahweh saves."

Historical Context

David's life exemplifies walking through the midst of trouble while experiencing God's reviving and saving power. He faced Goliath's taunts (1 Samuel 17), Saul's murderous pursuit for years (1 Samuel 19-26), his son Absalom's rebellion (2 Samuel 15-18), enemies surrounding him, and countless battles. Yet God repeatedly delivered him, establishing his kingdom and fulfilling covenant promises.

The imagery of God's outstretched hand and mighty arm runs throughout Israel's history. God stretched forth His hand in the plagues against Egypt (Exodus 7:5), parted the Red Sea (Exodus 14:16), provided water from the rock (Exodus 17:5), and defeated Israel's enemies. This wasn't abstract theology but concrete historical experience of divine intervention.

The theme of God reviving His people during trouble appears frequently in Psalms. Psalm 71:20 declares: "Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth."

Psalm 85:6 asks: "Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?"

For Israel during exile, these promises sustained hope. Though surrounded by trouble in Babylon, God would revive His people and restore them to their land. The prophets promised restoration: "After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up" (Hosea 6:2).

The New Testament sees Christ's resurrection as the ultimate fulfillment of God's reviving power. Acts 2:24 declares God "raised him up, having loosed the pains of death." Romans 8:11 promises: "If the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies." God's right hand that saved David ultimately accomplished salvation through Christ's death and resurrection.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between expecting exemption from trouble versus expecting God's presence and deliverance within trouble?
2. How does God 'revive' believers during seasons of affliction, and what spiritual practices facilitate this reviving?
3. What does it mean practically that God's hand is 'against the wrath' of our enemies—does this promise physical protection or something deeper?
4. How does Christ's resurrection represent the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise to revive His people?
5. When have you experienced God's 'right hand' saving you in the midst of trouble, and how does remembering past deliverances strengthen present faith?

Interlinear Text

אַפְּנָיָם	עַל	אַפְּנָיָם	עַל
H518	H1980	בְּקָרְבָּן	אֲלֵיכָן
		צַבָּה	אַל
H7130		H6869	H2421
in the midst	of trouble	thou wilt revive	H5921
			against the wrath
			H639
אַיִבְנִי	תִּשְׁלַח	צַדְקָתָךְ	וְשִׁיעָרְנִי
of mine enemies	me thou shalt stretch forth	thine hand	shall save
H341	H7971	H3027	H3467
וְמִימְתָּחָר:			
and thy right hand			
H3225			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 41:10 (Parallel theme): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Psalms 85:6 (Parallel theme): Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?

Isaiah 5:25 (Parallel theme): Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcases were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Acts 2:33 (Parallel theme): Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Isaiah 10:4 (Parallel theme): Without me they shall bow down under the prisoners, and they shall fall under the slain. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Job 13:15 (Parallel theme): Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

Psalms 17:7 (Salvation): Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.

Psalms 60:5 (Salvation): That thy beloved may be delivered; save with thy right hand, and hear me.

Jeremiah 51:25 (Parallel theme): Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.

Psalms 56:9 (Parallel theme): When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.

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