

Psalms 140:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence.

Analysis

Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence. Psalm 140 concludes with confident declaration of the righteous' ultimate destiny—thanksgiving and dwelling in God's presence. After petitioning for deliverance from violent enemies, David ends with assurance of the righteous' vindication and eternal blessing.

"Surely" (אֲכֵן/akh) expresses emphatic certainty. This adverb means only, surely, nevertheless, indeed. Despite present trouble and violent opposition, the outcome is certain—the righteous WILL give thanks, they WILL dwell with God. Present circumstances don't determine ultimate destiny.

"The righteous" (צַדִּיקִים/tzaddikim) refers to those who are right with God, justified, living in covenant faithfulness. This doesn't mean sinless perfection but right relationship with God through faith, lived out in obedience. The plural form indicates the community of believers, not isolated individuals.

"Shall give thanks unto thy name" (וְיִדּוּ לְשִׁמְךָ/yodu lishimekha) from yadah means to give thanks, praise, confess. The imperfect tense indicates future certainty. God's name represents His revealed character. Giving thanks to His name acknowledges who He has proven Himself to be—faithful, just, merciful, powerful. Present suffering may produce lament, but ultimate outcome is thanksgiving.

"The upright" (יְשָׁרִים/yesharim) parallels "the righteous," emphasizing moral

integrity, straightness, honesty. Yashar means straight, upright, pleasing, right. This describes those who walk in integrity, whose lives are aligned with God's will, who live honestly and righteously.

"Shall dwell in thy presence" (יָשֹׁבוּ אֶת־פָּנֶיךָ/yeshvu et-panekha) is the climax. Yashav means to sit, remain, dwell, abide permanently. "Thy presence" literally "thy face" (panim) represents God's personal presence, His immediate proximity. To dwell in God's presence means intimate, unbroken fellowship with God—the ultimate blessing and goal of redemption.

Historical Context

The contrast between the destiny of the wicked (destruction) and the righteous (dwelling in God's presence) runs throughout biblical theology. Psalm 1 establishes this two-ways paradigm: the righteous are blessed and prosperous; the wicked will perish. While the wicked may prosper temporarily, their ultimate destiny is judgment and destruction.

Dwelling in God's presence was Israel's highest hope and greatest blessing. Psalm 27:4 declares: "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD." Psalm 84:10 affirms: "A day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."

In the Old Testament, dwelling in God's presence meant worship in the tabernacle or temple, where God manifested His glory. The Holy of Holies represented God's special presence, accessible only to the high priest once yearly. Yet this physical access pointed toward deeper spiritual reality—intimate fellowship with God.

The New Testament reveals fuller meaning of dwelling in God's presence. Jesus is Immanuel—"God with us" (Matthew 1:23). Through Christ's death and resurrection, believers have access into God's presence (Hebrews 10:19-22). The Holy Spirit indwells believers, making them temples of God (1 Corinthians 6:19). Yet this present access anticipates future consummation: "And I heard a great

voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God" (Revelation 21:3).

For persecuted believers throughout history—facing exile, imprisonment, martyrdom—this promise sustained hope. Whatever present suffering might bring, the righteous' ultimate destiny is secure: eternal dwelling in God's presence, unbroken fellowship with the One who is himself the greatest treasure.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty of ultimately dwelling in God's presence provide strength during present suffering and opposition?
2. What does it mean practically to 'dwell' in God's presence now through prayer, worship, and spiritual communion?
3. How does Christ's work grant believers immediate access to God's presence while also pointing toward future consummation of dwelling with God?
4. In what ways might believers pursue lesser blessings while neglecting the supreme blessing of dwelling in God's presence?
5. How should the promised destiny of dwelling in God's presence shape current priorities, values, and life decisions?

Interlinear Text

אֵל	צַדִּיקִים	יֹדוּ	לְשִׁמְךָ	יָשֹׁב
H389	Surely the righteous	shall give thanks	unto thy name	shall dwell
	H6662	H3034	H8034	H3427
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אֶת	פְּנֵיךָ:	יָשֹׁב	אֵל	יָשֹׁב
the upright	H853	in thy presence		
H3477		H6440		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 3:10 (Righteousness): Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.

Psalms 16:11 (Parallel theme): Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalms 11:7 (Righteousness): For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

John 17:24 (Parallel theme): Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

John 14:3 (Parallel theme): And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (Parallel theme): Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Psalms 23:6 (Parallel theme): Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalms 73:24 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Psalms 97:12 (Righteousness): Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

