

Psalms 140:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle.

Analysis

O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle. David addresses God with emphatic title: "O GOD the Lord" (YHWH Adonai, יהוה אֲדֹנָי)—combining God's covenant name (YHWH, יהוה) with title of sovereign lordship (Adonai, אֲדֹנָי). This double address emphasizes both intimate covenant relationship and supreme authority. Only this powerful, covenant-keeping God can deliver from such fierce enemies.

"The strength of my salvation" (oz yeshu'ati, עֹז יִשׁוּעָתִי) identifies God as source and power of deliverance. Oz (עֹז, "strength, might, power") emphasizes capability. Yeshu'ah (יִשׁוּעָה, "salvation") is deliverance, victory, rescue. The possessive "my salvation" personalizes it—God isn't abstract deliverer but David's personal savior. The phrase anticipates Isaiah 12:2: "the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation," and ultimately points to Jesus (Yeshua in Hebrew), whose name means "Yahweh saves."

"Thou hast covered my head in the day of battle" (sakota le-roshi be-yom neshek, סָכַתָּה לְרֹאשִׁי בְיוֹם נֶשֶׁק) recalls specific past deliverance. Sakak (סָכַךְ, "covered") means "to cover, screen, protect"—like a shield protecting vulnerable head from weapons. Rosh (רֹאשׁ, "head") is the most vital target in battle; protecting the head preserves life. Yom neshek (יוֹם נֶשֶׁק, "day of battle") literally means "day of weapons/armor"—time of armed conflict. David testifies that in actual combat situations, God supernaturally protected him from mortal wounds. This wasn't metaphorical but

literal—arrows, spears, and swords missed or failed to cause fatal injury because God intervened.

Historical Context

David's military career provided abundant examples of God's battlefield protection. As young shepherd, he killed lion and bear defending his flock (1 Samuel 17:34-37). Facing Goliath, he declared: "the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's" (1 Samuel 17:47), then defeated the giant with sling and stone. Throughout his years as warrior and king, David fought numerous battles—against Philistines, Moabites, Arameans, Edomites, Ammonites, and Amalekites (1 Samuel-2 Samuel). He survived assassination attempts, battles where enemies outnumbered him, and rebellions from within his own kingdom. The fact that David lived to old age despite decades of warfare and constant danger testified to supernatural protection. This established the pattern: God preserves His anointed through overwhelming opposition, a pattern fulfilled perfectly in Christ who conquered death itself (Acts 2:24).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that God is 'the strength of my salvation' rather than merely a helper in salvation?
2. How does David's testimony that God 'covered my head in the day of battle' encourage believers facing spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:12-17)?

3. How does God's protection of David through literal battlefields assure believers of His protection through spiritual battles against sin, Satan, and death?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי	עֲזָרָתִי	יְשׁוּעָתִי	כִּי תָה	לְרֹאשִׁי
O GOD	the Lord	the strength	of my salvation	thou hast covered	my head
H3069	H136	H5797	H3444	H5526	H7218
בַּיּוֹם	נִשְׁקָה:				
in the day	of battle				
H3117	H5402				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 62:2 (Salvation): He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.

Psalms 89:26 (Salvation): He shall cry unto me, Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.

Psalms 62:7 (Salvation): In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

Psalms 59:17 (References God): Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.

Psalms 95:1 (Salvation): O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Psalms 144:10 (Salvation): It is he that giveth salvation unto kings: who delivereth David his servant from the hurtful sword.

Psalms 27:1 (Salvation): The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalms 18:35 (Salvation): Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.

Isaiah 12:2 (Salvation): Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

2 Samuel 8:14 (References Lord): And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

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