

Psalms 143:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Quicken me, O LORD, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

Analysis

Quicken me, O LORD, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. This verse contains urgent petition for renewed life and deliverance from trouble, grounded not in David's merit but in God's reputation (name) and character (righteousness). The appeals demonstrate understanding that God's glory and character guarantee His intervention on behalf of His people.

"Quicken me" (חַיֵּנִי/chayeni) from chayah means to make alive, preserve life, revive, restore to life, give vitality. The Piel form (intensive) emphasizes the action: make thoroughly alive, completely revive. David doesn't merely request continued existence but renewed vitality, restored vigor, revitalized life. When circumstances threaten to crush spirit and drain life, God can revive and restore.

This petition appears frequently in Psalm 119, the psalm celebrating God's word: "Quicken thou me according to thy word" (v.25); "Quicken me after thy lovingkindness" (v.88); "Quicken me according to thy judgments" (v.156). The consistent theme: God's word, character, and actions are life-giving, reviving believers who face death-dealing circumstances.

"For thy name's sake" (לְמַעַן שְׁמֶךָ/lema'an-shimkha) grounds the petition in God's reputation and character. Lema'an means for the sake of, on account of, because of. Shem (name) represents God's revealed character, reputation, glory. David appeals to God to act consistently with His character, to maintain His reputation

for faithfulness and power. When God's people perish, His name is questioned; when He delivers them, His name is glorified.

"For thy righteousness' sake" (צִדְקָתְךָ/tzidqatekha) adds parallel appeal to God's righteous character. Tzedakah means righteousness, justice, what is right. God's righteousness includes both justice (punishing evil) and faithfulness (keeping covenant promises). David appeals to God's consistent character—righteous action requires delivering those who trust Him and defeating those who oppose Him.

"Bring my soul out of trouble" (תוֹצֵא מִצָּרָה נַפְשִׁי/totzi mitzarah nafshi) specifies what's needed. Yatsa in Hiphil means to bring out, lead out, deliver. Tzarah means trouble, distress, adversity, tight places. Nefesh (soul) represents the whole person. David needs comprehensive deliverance from encompassing trouble that threatens his entire being.

Historical Context

The appeal to God's name appears throughout Scripture as foundation for prayer. Ezekiel repeatedly declares God acts "for mine holy name's sake" (Ezekiel 36:22). When Israel sinned and faced destruction, God delivered them not because they deserved it but to maintain His reputation among nations. If Israel perished, pagans would mock: "Where is their God?" God's glory requires vindicating His people.

Joshua prayed after Israel's defeat at Ai: "What wilt thou do unto thy great name?" (Joshua 7:9), appealing to God's reputation. Moses interceded after the golden calf incident: "Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out?" (Exodus 32:12), appealing to God's name among nations.

This isn't manipulative—as if believers blackmail God by threatening His reputation. Rather, it recognizes that God has bound His glory to His people's welfare. He has committed to be known as Israel's God, the church's Savior. His character guarantees He will act to preserve and deliver those who belong to Him, thus glorifying His name.

The petition for God to "quicken" or revive appears particularly in Psalms during persecution or exile. When circumstances threaten to crush life and hope, believers cry out for divine revitalization. This anticipates New Testament teaching about spiritual resurrection: "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). The God who gives physical life also gives spiritual life, reviving dead souls and renewing discouraged hearts.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray "Hallowed be thy name" (Matthew 6:9)—that God's name be honored, glorified, revered. This petition for God's name to be exalted aligns with appealing to God to act "for thy name's sake." When God delivers His people, acts righteously, keeps promises, His name is hallowed. When He allows His people to perish unvindicated, His name is questioned. Thus God's glory and His people's welfare are connected.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to pray for deliverance 'for thy name's sake' rather than merely for personal relief?
2. How does understanding that God's reputation is bound up with His people's welfare affect confidence in prayer?
3. What is the difference between being 'quicken' (revived, given new life) versus merely surviving difficult circumstances?
4. How do God's name (reputation) and righteousness (character) work together to guarantee His intervention?
5. When have you needed God to 'quicken' you—restore vitality, renew spirit, revive hope—and how did He accomplish this?

Interlinear Text

לְמַעַן H4616	שְׁמִיךְ H8034	יְהוָה הֵ H3068	תַּחֲיֵי נִי H2421	בְּצִדְקָתְךָ אֶ H6666	תוֹצֵא יֵא H3318
	for thy name's	me O LORD	Quicken	sake for thy righteousness	sake bring
מִצָּר הֵ H6869	נַפְשִׁי: H5315				
out of trouble	my soul				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 31:1 (Righteousness): In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness.

Psalms 119:25 (Parallel theme): My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.

Psalms 119:37 (Parallel theme): Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

Psalms 71:2 (Righteousness): Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me.

Psalms 119:88 (Parallel theme): Quicken me after thy lovingkindness; so shall I keep the testimony of thy mouth.

Psalms 34:19 (Righteousness): Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

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

Psalms 25:11 (References Lord): For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great.

Psalms 138:7 (Parallel theme): 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.

Habakkuk 3:2 (References Lord): O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.

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