

Psalms 144:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It is he that giveth salvation unto kings: who delivereth David his servant from the hurtful sword.

Analysis

It is he that giveth salvation unto kings (הַנוֹתֵן תְּשׁוּעָה לְמַלְכִּים)—Hannoten teshuah lammalakhim (the one giving salvation/victory to kings) acknowledges that royal authority and military success come from God alone. Kings, despite power, cannot save themselves. **Who delivereth David his servant from the hurtful sword** (happoteh et-David avdo mecherev raah)—raah (evil, hurtful) sword threatened David's life repeatedly.

David's repeated deliverance from assassination (Saul's spear, Absalom's revolt, Goliath's sword) wasn't luck or skill but divine providence. This verse establishes a theology of kingship: human rulers are utterly dependent servants whom God exalts or abases (Daniel 4:17, Romans 13:1). The ultimate fulfillment is Christ, the servant-king (Mark 10:45) whom God delivered from death's 'hurtful sword' through resurrection (Acts 2:24-32).

Historical Context

David's life was perpetually threatened: Saul hunted him for a decade (1 Samuel 19-31), Philistines attacked repeatedly (2 Samuel 5:17-25), Absalom's coup nearly succeeded (2 Samuel 15-18). Each deliverance demonstrated that 'salvation belongs to the Lord' (Psalm 3:8). Later kings who forgot this dependence (trusting Egypt, Assyria, etc.) fell to foreign swords.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this verse challenge modern notions that political leaders achieve success through personal competence rather than divine sovereignty?
2. In what sense is David both 'king' and 'servant,' and how does this dual identity model Christian leadership?
3. How did God deliver Jesus His 'servant' from the 'hurtful sword' of death, and how does this secure salvation for all believers?

Interlinear Text

הַנּוֹתִי	תְּשׁוּעָה	לְמֶלֶךְ כִּי יִמְ	הַ פּוֹצֵה	אֶת	דָּוִד
It is he that giveth	salvation	unto kings	who delivereth	H853	David
H5414	H8668	H4428	H6475		H1732
עֶבֶד יְ	יָמֶיךָ	רֶבֶץ:			
his servant	sword	from the hurtful			
H5650	H2719	H7451			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 18:50 (Kingdom): Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and sheweth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore.

Psalms 140:7 (Salvation): O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle.