

Psalms 144:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.

Analysis

My goodness, and my fortress (חסדי ומצותה)—Chasdi (my steadfast love, covenant mercy) surprisingly describes God as David's loyal protector. **My high tower, and my deliverer** (misgabbi umphallti)—four fortress metaphors emphasizing God as impregnable refuge. **My shield** (maginnî) protects in battle (Genesis 15:1). **And he in whom I trust** (bachasti)—confident reliance, not mere intellectual assent.

Who subdueth my people under me (פָּרֹזֵד עַמִּי תְּחִפֵּי)—God grants David authority over Israel and surrounding nations. This isn't autocratic tyranny but theocratic kingship, where the human king mediates divine rule. David's throne foreshadows Christ's eternal kingdom, where the King serves His subjects by laying down His life (Mark 10:45), and subjects joyfully submit to perfect love.

Historical Context

David's military success united the twelve tribes and subdued neighboring peoples (2 Samuel 8). Unlike ANE despots who ruled by fear, David's kingship was covenantal—God subdued the people under David's leadership, not David's own might. This pattern continued until the monarchy's failure led to exile, awaiting the Son of David who would rule righteously forever (Isaiah 9:6-7, Luke 1:32-33).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do the multiple fortress metaphors (goodness, fortress, tower, deliverer, shield) address different vulnerabilities and fears?
2. What does it mean for God to 'subdue people under' a leader, and how does this apply to church leadership and civil authority?
3. How does David's trust in God as shield contrast with modern reliance on human security (military, financial, political)?

Interlinear Text

תְּכִיּוּ לְיָמִינְתִּי מִשְׁגַּבְתִּי מִפְלַטְתִּי מִגְּדָלְתִּי
My goodness and my fortress my high tower and my deliverer my shield
H2617 H4686 H4869 H6403 H4043

וְיַדְתִּי כְּבָדְךָ תְּרַחֲךָ עַמְּךָ תְּחַפְּתִּי
and he in whom I trust who subdueth my people
H2620 H7286 H5971 H8478

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 18:2 (Faith): The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Psalms 91:2 (Faith): I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Psalms 59:9 (Parallel theme): Because of his strength will I wait upon thee: for God is my defence.

Psalms 18:47 (Parallel theme): It is God that avengeth me, and subdueth the people under me.

Psalms 110:3 (Parallel theme): Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.

Psalms 84:9 (Parallel theme): Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.

Jeremiah 16:19 (Parallel theme): O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.

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