

Psalms 145:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

Analysis

This verse extends the scope of God's benevolence across time and creation: 'Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.' The phrase 'everlasting kingdom' (memlachah le'olamim) asserts both the reality of God's present kingship and its eternal continuation. 'Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations' emphasizes stability across successive human ages. This verse moves from God's intrinsic character (verses 8) to His universal rule. The theological claim is that God's sovereignty is not provisional or temporary but fundamental to creation's structure. Throughout history's successive generations, God's rule continues unchanged. This provides hope for any oppressed generation: current political circumstances do not diminish God's ultimate authority. The verse implicitly critiques reliance on earthly kingdoms, which inevitably pass (Babylonian, Persian, Greek, Roman empires all fell, but God's kingdom remained). This is not escapist otherworldliness but theological grounding in reality - God's kingdom, not human empires, ultimately determines history's trajectory.

Historical Context

During Israel's monarchical period (1000-586 BC), king-worship included celebration of the king's dynasty as 'everlasting' (Psalm 89:3-4, 28-29). However, the Babylonian exile devastated this theology - the Davidic dynasty ceased to rule. This psalm, likely composed or compiled after exile, redirects the language of 'everlasting kingdom' to God alone. This is theologically sophisticated: it maintains

hope in God's enduring rule while acknowledging the failure of human kingship. During the Hellenistic period (332-165 BC), when Jews lived under the rule of Alexander and his successors, the affirmation of God's everlasting kingdom provided spiritual resistance to cultural assimilation. The concept of God's kingdom 'throughout all generations' appears in apocalyptic literature (Daniel 7, later developed into concepts of messianic kingdom and resurrection). For early Christians reading this psalm, it pointed toward Jesus's teaching about the 'kingdom of God' (Mark 1:14-15) and the expectation of a future restoration of all things.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What is the theological significance of affirming God's 'everlasting kingdom' during periods when human kingdoms are dominant?
2. How does belief in God's eternal dominion affect our evaluation of current political and social circumstances?
3. Why is it important that God's dominion endures 'throughout all generations' rather than being limited to the present?
4. In what ways does this verse challenge human attempts to establish permanent political systems and empires?
5. How should the recognition of God's ultimate kingship shape our loyalty to earthly authorities?

Interlinear Text

בְּכֹל	וּ מִמְּשָׁלֶתְךָ	עֲלָמִים	כָּל	מֶלֶךְ וְ	מֶלֶךְ וְ	מֶלֶךְ וְ
H3605	H4475	H5769	H3605	H4438	H4438	H4438
is an everlasting	and thy dominion			Thy kingdom	Thy kingdom	Thy kingdom
				H1755	H1755	H1755
				endureth throughout all	endureth throughout all	endureth throughout all
				H1755	H1755	H1755

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 1:17 (Kingdom): Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Isaiah 9:7 (Kingdom): Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Daniel 7:14 (Kingdom): And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Revelation 11:15 (Kingdom): And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Psalms 10:16 (Kingdom): The LORD is King for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land.

Daniel 2:44 (Kingdom): And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.