

Psalm 18:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.

Analysis

The superscription identifies this as David's song when delivered from enemies and Saul. The Hebrew 'racham' (love) is intense, visceral affection—literally 'love deeply' or 'have compassion.' David's love for Yahweh flows from experienced salvation. This anticipates the greatest commandment to love God with all your heart (Matthew 22:37) and John's teaching that 'we love because He first loved us' (1 John 4:19). Love responds to grace.

Historical Context

Composed after David's deliverance from years of persecution by Saul and victory over surrounding enemies. Reflects mature faith developed through sustained trials.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How has God's deliverance deepened your love for Him?
2. Do you love God primarily for benefits or for His own sake?

Interlinear Text

אֶרְחָמָם הָנֶה כְּבָרְכָה
I will love of the LORD my strength
H7355 H3068 H2391

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 1:11 (Parallel theme): Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

1 John 4:19 (Love): We love him, because he first loved us.

Philippians 4:13 (Parallel theme): I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

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

Psalms 118:14 (References Lord): The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

Psalms 36:1 (Parallel theme): The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.

Psalms 18:32 (Parallel theme): It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.

Psalms 116:16 (References Lord): O LORD, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds.

Acts 13:36 (Parallel theme): For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

Hebrews 3:5 (Parallel theme): And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org