

Psalms 18:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

Analysis

In distress, David called to Yahweh and his cry reached God's temple—from earth to heaven. The Hebrew 'tsaaq' (cry out) indicates desperate petition. God heard ('shama') his voice, indicating attentive response. This anticipates Jesus teaching to pray to 'Our Father in heaven' (Matthew 6:9) and Hebrews' encouragement to approach the throne of grace with confidence (Hebrews 4:16). Prayer bridges earth and heaven.

Historical Context

The temple reference may be anachronistic (pre-Solomon) or refer to God's heavenly dwelling. Ancient Near Eastern religions had earthly temples as dwelling places of gods; Israel's God dwelt in heaven.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How confident are you that your prayers reach God's hearing?
2. What hinders you from crying out to God in distress?

Interlinear Text

בְּצִרְעָה וְאֶל יְהֹוָה וְאֶל אֱלֹהִים וְאֶשְׁר וְעַד
In my distress H0 I called H7121 upon the LORD H3068 H413 unto my God H430 and cried H7768

בָּבְנֵי יְהֹוָה מִתְּחִילָה וְיִשְׁמַע עַד
he heard H8085 out of his temple H1964 my voice H6963 and my cry H7775 before H6440 came H935

בְּאַזְנֵי:
him even into his ears H241

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 50:15 (Parallel theme): And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

2 Samuel 22:7 (Temple): In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears.

Psalms 34:15 (References Lord): The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

Psalms 120:1 (References Lord): In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me.

Acts 12:5 (References God): Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

2 Chronicles 30:27 (Parallel theme): Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the people: and their voice was heard, and their prayer came up to his holy dwelling place, even unto heaven.

Exodus 2:23 (References God): And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.

Habakkuk 2:20 (Temple): But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

Psalms 5:7 (Temple): But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

Psalms 11:4 (Temple): The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.