

Psalms 20:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfil all thy counsel.

Analysis

This royal psalm intercedes for the king, praying that God would grant the desires aligned with His will. The Hebrew word for 'counsel' (etzah) suggests divine purpose and plan. From a Reformed perspective, this verse illustrates that God sovereignly ordains the king's success, not through human strength but through divine favor. The prayer acknowledges that righteous desires originate from God and are fulfilled by God, demonstrating the doctrine of divine sovereignty in human affairs.

Historical Context

Written in the context of Israel's monarchy, likely composed for use before battle when the king sought divine blessing. The congregation would pray this for their anointed leader, recognizing that victory depended entirely on God's favor rather than military might.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do your heart's desires align with God's revealed will in Scripture?
2. In what ways do you seek God's sovereign guidance before major decisions?

Interlinear Text

יִתֵּן	לְךָ	כְּלִבְבְּךָ	וְכָל	עֲצָתְךָ	יִמְלֵא:
Grant	H0	thee according to thine own heart	H3605	all thy counsel	and fulfil
H5414		H3824		H6098	H4390

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 145:19 (Parallel theme): He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

Psalms 37:4 (Parallel theme): Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Psalms 21:2 (Parallel theme): Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips. Selah.

Matthew 21:22 (Parallel theme): And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

John 16:23 (Parallel theme): And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

Proverbs 11:23 (Parallel theme): The desire of the righteous is only good: but the expectation of the wicked is wrath.

John 11:42 (Parallel theme): And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.