

Psalms 21:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him, even length of days for ever and ever.

Analysis

The request for 'life' receives an answer of eternal life—'length of days for ever and ever.' While the earthly king sought temporal life, God's answer transcends time. This Messianic overtone points to Christ, who asked for life (Heb. 5:7) and received resurrection and eternal dominion. The Reformed understanding sees God's answers exceeding our petitions according to His sovereign purposes—we ask temporally, God answers eternally.

Historical Context

Kings in the ancient Near East sought long reigns as signs of divine favor. However, this verse's language of 'forever and ever' exceeds any mortal king's lifespan, pointing prophetically to the Messiah's eternal kingdom.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise of eternal life transform your earthly priorities?

2. In what ways has God answered your prayers beyond what you asked or imagined?

Interlinear Text

חַיִּים	שָׁאַ ל	מִמְּךָ	נָתַתָּה	לִי	אֵלֶיךָ
life	He asked	H4480	of thee and thou gavest	H0	it him even length
H2416	H7592		H5414		H753
יָמֵי	עוֹלָם	וְעוֹלָם			
of days	for ever	and ever			
H3117	H5769	H5703			

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 1:18 (Parallel theme): I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Psalms 91:16 (Parallel theme): With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Psalms 119:77 (Parallel theme): Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.

Psalms 133:3 (Parallel theme): As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Psalms 119:175 (Parallel theme): Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me.

Psalms 72:17 (Parallel theme): His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed.

Psalms 13:3 (Parallel theme): Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;

Psalms 89:29 (Parallel theme): His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven.

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