

Psalm 21:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the king trusteth in the LORD, and through the mercy of the most High he shall not be moved.

Analysis

For the king trusteth in the LORD, and through the mercy of the most High he shall not be moved. This verse identifies the foundation of the king's security: trust in YHWH. The Hebrew word for 'trusteth' (batach, בָּטָח) means to feel safe, to be confident, to have security. It's the same word used in Proverbs 3:5, 'Trust in the LORD with all thine heart.' This trust isn't passive hope but active reliance—staking one's life and kingdom on God's faithfulness.

'The mercy of the most High' translates chesed Elyon (חסֵד אֱלֹהִים), combining God's covenant faithfulness with His exalted supremacy. Chesed is one of the Old Testament's richest words, encompassing loyal love, steadfast mercy, and covenant commitment. Elyon (Most High) emphasizes God's sovereignty over all other powers—a particularly meaningful title when praising victory over enemies who had their own gods. The king's stability rests not on political maneuvering but on the covenant mercy of the sovereign God.

'He shall not be moved' (lo yimmot, לוֹיַמֹּת) pictures immovable stability—like a mountain that cannot be shaken (Psalm 46:5, 62:2). This stability contrasts with the instability of kingdoms founded on human power, which rise and fall with fortune's changes. The theological principle is clear: those who trust God become unshakeable; those who trust anything else are built on sand (Matthew 7:24-27). For Christians, this verse points to security in Christ—believers 'shall never perish' (John 10:28) because they're held by divine mercy, not human effort.

Historical Context

The concept of covenant chesed (loyal love) was central to Israel's understanding of their relationship with YHWH. Unlike surrounding nations' capricious deities who might abandon their people, YHWH had bound Himself by covenant oath to remain faithful to Abraham's descendants and David's line (Genesis 15:18, 2 Samuel 7:15). This covenant loyalty meant that even when Israel deserved judgment, God's mercy would preserve a remnant and maintain the Davidic dynasty.

The Davidic covenant promised that God's chesed would not depart from David's house (2 Samuel 7:15). This promise sustained hope through military defeats, political upheavals, and eventually exile. Even when Judah's last king was deported to Babylon and the kingdom ceased to exist, the prophetic promise remained: a son of David would one day rule forever (Jeremiah 33:17). Psalm 21:7 expresses confidence in this covenant promise—the king won't be moved because God's mercy is irrevocable.

The title 'Most High' (Elyon) was particularly significant in polytheistic contexts. Surrounding nations believed in hierarchies of gods, with supreme deities ruling over lesser ones. By calling YHWH 'Most High,' Israel asserted His supremacy over all claimed divine beings. This wasn't henotheism (acknowledging other gods while worshiping one) but radical monotheism—YHWH alone is truly God, and all other claimed deities are nothing (Psalm 96:5, Isaiah 44:6). The king's trust in the Most High therefore placed him under the protection of the universe's sovereign ruler.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does it look like practically for you to 'trust in the LORD' rather than in your own abilities?
2. How have you experienced God's *chesed* (covenant mercy) as the foundation of your security?
3. What circumstances in your life are tempting you to 'be moved' from trust in God?
4. How does understanding God as 'Most High' affect your confidence in prayer and spiritual warfare?
5. In what ways does knowing you cannot be 'moved' from God's love change your approach to trials?

Interlinear Text

בָּיְתָה	בְּתִי	בְּמִלְגָה	וְבִתְּחִדְשָׁה	וְלִילִוּן
H3588	For the king	trusteth	in the LORD	and through the mercy of the most High
H4428	H982	H3068	H2617	H5945

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 16:8 (References Lord): I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Psalms 91:2 (Faith): I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God: in him will I trust.

Psalms 26:1 (Faith): Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD: therefore I shall not slide.

Psalms 9:2 (Parallel theme): I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.

Psalms 18:2 (Faith): The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

1 Samuel 30:6 (References Lord): And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

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.

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