

Psalms 22:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.

Analysis

The plea 'be not far from me' reflects the agony of perceived divine distance when 'trouble is near' and 'there is none to help.' This captures Christ's experience on the cross—abandoned by disciples, mocked by crowds, and (for a time) forsaken by the Father. Reformed theology sees this as the nadir of Christ's humiliation: the eternal Son experienced the ultimate loneliness of sin-bearing. His cry of dereliction purchased believers' eternal intimacy with God.

Historical Context

Soldiers about to die in battle would cry similar prayers. For Christ, this plea was fulfilled in the Father's ultimate presence through resurrection (Acts 2:27), turning temporary abandonment into eternal vindication.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's experience of divine distance guarantee you will never be ultimately abandoned?
2. In times when God feels distant, how do you cling to the promise of His presence?

Interlinear Text

אֵל תִּרְחֹק מִמֶּנִּי כִּי צָרָה קִרְבָּהּ כִּי אֵין עֹזָר:
H408 Be not far H4480 H3588 from me for trouble H6869 is near H3588 H369 H7138
עֹזָר:
for there is none to help
H5826

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 71:12 (Parallel theme): O God, be not far from me: O my God, make haste for my help.

Psalms 72:12 (Parallel theme): For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.

Psalms 10:1 (Parallel theme): Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?

Hebrews 5:7 (Parallel theme): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Psalms 38:21 (Parallel theme): Forsake me not, O LORD: O my God, be not far from me.

John 16:32 (Parallel theme): Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

Psalms 35:22 (Parallel theme): This thou hast seen, O LORD: keep not silence: O Lord, be not far from me.

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