

Psalms 22:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog.

Analysis

The prayer for deliverance from 'the sword' and 'the dog' uses metaphors for violent death and contemptuous enemies. 'My darling' (Hebrew: yachid, 'my only one') likely refers to the psalmist's own life or soul—his singular, precious existence. For Christ, this may refer to His unique, divine-human person. Reformed theology emphasizes that God answered this prayer through resurrection, delivering Christ's soul from death and granting Him eternal life to share with His people.

Historical Context

Dogs in ancient Israel were scavengers, not pets—symbols of contempt and danger. The 'sword' represents violent death. Together, these images depict mortal peril from which only God can rescue.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's deliverance of Christ from death guarantee your deliverance from eternal death?
2. What is your 'darling'—your most precious possession—that you need God to protect?

Interlinear Text

הִצֵּל יְלָה	יְמֵךְ רֶב	נַפְשִׁי י	מִיָּד	כֶּן לָב	יְחִידָתִי:
Deliver	from the sword	my soul	from the power	of the dog	my darling
H5337	H2719	H5315	H3027	H3611	H3173

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 35:17 (Parallel theme): Lord, how long wilt thou look on? rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions.

Zechariah 13:7 (Word): Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.