

Psalms 22:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts.

Analysis

Amidst anguish, the psalmist recalls God's providential care from conception —'thou art he that took me out of the womb.' This affirms God's sovereignty over life from its beginning and His sustaining grace through all stages. Reformed theology sees this as evidence of God's electing love: before birth, He determined salvation and providentially sustained life. Even Jesus' human birth was sovereignly ordained for redemptive purposes (Gal. 4:4).

Historical Context

In ancient cultures with high infant mortality, reaching adulthood required divine protection. The psalmist's survival from birth demonstrated God's covenant faithfulness. For Christ, this recalls the slaughter of Bethlehem's infants and His miraculous preservation (Matt. 2:13-18).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God's care from your conception affect your view of His ongoing faithfulness?
2. What does this verse teach about the value and sanctity of life from its earliest stages?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה	גַּתְתִּי	מֵבָטֶן
H3588	H859	But thou art he that took me out of the womb
	H1518	H990
תַּחֲזִקְתִּי	בְּטִיחָה	אֲמִינָה
thou didst make me hope	H5921	breasts
H982	H7699	when I was upon my mother's
		H517

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 71:6 (Parallel theme): By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee.

Psalms 71:17 (Parallel theme): O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.

Isaiah 9:6 (Parallel theme): For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.