

Psalm 23:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Analysis

The imagery transitions from pastoral to hospitality, depicting God as the generous host who provides abundantly even 'in the presence of mine enemies.' The table fellowship signifies covenant protection and provision. Anointing with oil was a sign of honor and joy in ancient Near Eastern culture, while the overflowing cup represents extravagant blessing beyond mere sufficiency. This verse points forward to the Messianic banquet (Isaiah 25:6) and the Lord's Supper, where Christ hosts His people at His table despite the hostility of the world.

Historical Context

Ancient Middle Eastern hospitality codes provided sanctuary to guests, who could feast in safety even if enemies lurked outside. David experienced such divine protection during his flight from Saul and during his reign. The anointing imagery reflects royal and priestly consecration practices.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's provision of abundant blessing amid opposition challenge your definition of prosperity?
2. In what current 'presence of enemies' (trials, opposition, spiritual warfare) do you need to recognize God's table prepared for you?

Interlinear Text

צָרָב	י	בְּ	נִדְחָה	שָׁלֵךְ	א	לִפְנֵי	י	תְּמִימָה	רַ
Thou preparest	before	a table		H5048				me in the presence of mine enemies	
H6186	H6440	H7979						H6887	

רְנִיחָה	כֹּס	רַ	אַשְׁ	בְּ	שְׁמַן	דְּשֵׁ	נִתְ
thou anointest	with oil	my head	my cup				
H1878	H8081	H7218	H3563				H7310

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 3:20 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Psalms 92:10 (Parallel theme): But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil.

Psalms 45:7 (Parallel theme): Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Psalms 16:5 (Parallel theme): The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.

Job 36:16 (Parallel theme): Even so would he have removed thee out of the strait into a broad place, where there is no straitness; and that which should be set on thy table should be full of fatness.

1 John 2:20 (Parallel theme): But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

1 John 2:27 (Parallel theme): But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

John 16:22 (Parallel theme): And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

2 Corinthians 1:21 (Parallel theme): Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God;

Psalms 104:15 (Parallel theme): And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart.