

Psalm 23:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Analysis

The psalm concludes with confident assurance rooted in God's covenant faithfulness. 'Goodness and mercy' (Hebrew 'tov' and 'chesed'—loving-kindness or covenant love) personified as pursuers reverse the typical imagery of being hunted by enemies. The phrase 'all the days of my life' encompasses temporal existence, while 'dwell in the house of the LORD for ever' speaks to eternal communion, foreshadowing the believer's hope of heaven. This verse encapsulates the security of those who belong to the Good Shepherd (John 10:27-29).

Historical Context

For David, dwelling in the house of the LORD referred to both access to the tabernacle and ultimately to unbroken fellowship with God. The psalmist's confidence reflects covenant promises to Israel and David's royal house, finding their ultimate fulfillment in Christ's eternal kingdom.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does viewing God's goodness and mercy as actively 'following' you change your perspective on divine providence?
2. What does 'dwelling in the house of the LORD forever' mean to you practically in this life and in your eternal hope?

Interlinear Text

תְּהִלִּים: אֶת־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
H389 H2896 H2617 H7291 H3605 H3117 H2416

תְּהִלִּים: לֹא־רֹא אֵת־בֵּית־יְהוָה שְׁבָתָת־
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever me all the days
H3427 H1004 H3068 H753 H3117

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 27:4 (References Lord): One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

2 Corinthians 5:1 (Parallel theme): For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Timothy 4:18 (References Lord): And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalms 16:11 (Parallel theme): Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalms 103:17 (Grace): But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

2 Corinthians 1:10 (Parallel theme): Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

Psalms 17:15 (Parallel theme): As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

Psalms 21:4 (Parallel theme): He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him, even length of days for ever and ever.

Philippians 1:23 (Parallel theme): For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

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