

Psalms 25:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee.

Analysis

The plea 'O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee' combines petition and profession. 'Keep my soul' asks for preservation; 'deliver me' asks for rescue. The reason given—'for I put my trust in thee'—is not meritorious but evidential: trust in God is both the means and evidence of salvation. Reformed theology sees perseverance: God keeps those who truly trust Him. Our trust doesn't earn preservation; rather, genuine trust evidences God's preserving work.

Historical Context

Throughout redemptive history, God preserved those who trusted Him—Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, the exiles. This track record encouraged believers to trust God's future faithfulness based on His past performance.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does 'putting your trust in God' protect you from ultimate shame?
2. What does it mean to ask God to 'keep your soul'?

Interlinear Text

ה	שְׁמֹר	ה	נַפְשִׁי	וְהַצִּילֵנִי	אֵל	אֵל	בַּאֵשׁ	כִּי
	O keep		my soul	and deliver	H408		me let me not be ashamed	H3588
	H8104		H5315	H5337			H954	
	חֲסֵ יְתִי		בְּךָ:					
	for I put my trust		H0					
	H2620							

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 121:7 (Parallel theme): The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

Acts 7:59 (Parallel theme): And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

Psalms 17:8 (Parallel theme): Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,

Psalms 86:2 (Faith): Preserve my soul; for I am holy: O thou my God, save thy servant that trusteth in thee.

Luke 23:46 (Parallel theme): And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.