

Psalms 27:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Analysis

The doubled command "wait on the LORD...wait, I say" (חַזַּק וְיָחַזֵּק אֶל־יְהוָה/qavveh el-YHWH qavveh) emphasizes urgency through repetition. "Wait" (חַזַּק/qavah) means hope, expect, look eagerly for—active anticipation, not passive resignation. This isn't merely waiting for something to happen but trusting God's character and timing. "Be of good courage" (חַזַּק/chazaq) means be strong, resolute, determined—internal fortitude sustained by faith. The promise "he shall strengthen thine heart" uses the same root word (חַזַּק/chazaq), creating wordplay: be strong, and He will make you strong. Strength comes from waiting on God, not striving independently. This concludes a psalm expressing confidence amid danger, desire for God's presence, and trust in His deliverance.

Historical Context

David likely wrote this during persecution, possibly fleeing Saul or during Absalom's rebellion. The psalm references seeking God's face in His temple, suggesting it may date to his reign when Jerusalem's tabernacle was established. Ancient Israelite worship emphasized patient trust in God's timing—waiting for His deliverance rather than taking vengeance or control. This ethic contrasted with surrounding nations where might made right and immediate action was valued over patient faith.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. In what current situation do you need to practice waiting on the LORD rather than forcing your own solution?
2. How does the promise that God will strengthen your heart while you wait change your perspective on difficult waiting periods?

Interlinear Text

יְחַלְּץ	אֶל	יְהוָה:	בְּיָדְךָ	וְיַצְמִיחַ
Wait	H413	I say on the LORD	be of good courage	and he shall strengthen
H6960		H3068	H2388	H553
לְבָבְךָ	יְחַלְּץ	אֶל	יְהוָה:	
thine heart	Wait	H413	I say on the LORD	
H3820	H6960		H3068	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 40:31 (References Lord): But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Psalms 31:24 (Good): Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

Isaiah 30:18 (References Lord): And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

Psalms 37:34 (References Lord): Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.

Psalms 130:5 (References Lord): I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

Habakkuk 2:3 (Parallel theme): For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Philippians 4:13 (Parallel theme): I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Colossians 1:11 (Parallel theme): Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Psalms 62:5 (Parallel theme): My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.

Psalms 138:3 (Parallel theme): In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.