

Psalm 31:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes: nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee.

Analysis

For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes: nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee. David confesses moment of faithless panic (I am cut off) contrasted with God's actual faithfulness (thou heardest). This models honest acknowledgment of doubt while testifying to God's mercy despite our unbelief.

For I said introduces confession of what David thought in crisis. Hebrew 'amar means to say, think, declare. David articulates what went through mind during intense trial—providing window into inner life of faith under pressure. This honesty is pastoral, allowing readers to identify with struggle rather than viewing David as superhuman.

In my haste translates chaphaz—alarm, panic, hurried fear. David's declaration was not careful theological reflection but panicked assessment. Word suggests emotional turmoil, hasty conclusion, fear-driven thinking rather than faith-grounded confidence. Acknowledges that even believers sometimes think and speak foolishly under pressure.

I am cut off from before thine eyes expresses fear of abandonment. Hebrew gazad means to be cut down, destroyed, expelled. David felt severed from God's caring oversight—as if God's eyes no longer watched protectively. This is terror of forsakenness. Jesus experienced this reality on cross: My God, why have You

forsaken Me? (Psalm 22:1). David feared it; Christ endured it.

Nevertheless signals contrast between David's hasty assessment and reality. Despite panic, God had not cut him off. Thou hearest the voice of my supplications proves God's attention never wavered. Reformed theology assures believers that God saves not because of strong faith but despite weak faith—Christ is object, and He remains faithful even when we waver.

Historical Context

David's confession resonates with many biblical figures who experienced similar panic. Moses declared God sent him to make things worse (Exodus 5:22-23). Elijah asked God to take his life (1 Kings 19:4,10). Jonah declared God had cast him from sight (Jonah 2:4). Each faithless statement was proven wrong by God's subsequent action.

Reformers distinguished between faith's stability (God's faithfulness) and faith's experience (our feelings). Assurance doesn't depend on feelings of being connected but on God's promise never to forsake His people. David felt cut off; he wasn't. Believers may feel abandoned; they aren't. Covenant stands firm regardless of emotional turbulence.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Have you experienced moments of hasty panic declaring yourself abandoned by God?
2. What is difference between feeling cut off from God and actually being cut off?

3. How does God's response to David's cry despite his faithless panic reveal nature of saving faith?
4. Why is it important that Scripture includes honest confessions of doubt rather than only presenting perfect faith?
5. How does Jesus' actual experience of forsakenness secure confidence that believers will never be ultimately cut off?

Interlinear Text

לֹאמֶד	בְּרֵית	מִתְּבָרֵךְ	עֵין יָבֵשׁ	נִגְרַזְתִּי	בְּרֵפֵץ	אַמְתִּיבְתִּי	אַמְתִּיבְתִּי
H589	For I said	in my haste	I am cut off	from before	thine eyes		
H559		H2648		H1629		H5048	H5869
nevertheless	thou heardest	the voice	of my supplications	when I cried			אַלְיכָה
H403		H8085		H6963		H8469	H413

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 116:11 (Parallel theme): I said in my haste, All men are liars.

Psalms 88:16 (Parallel theme): Thy fierce wrath goeth over me; thy terrors have cut me off.

Psalms 6:9 (Parallel theme): The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer.

Job 35:14 (Parallel theme): Although thou sayest thou shalt not see him, yet judgment is before him; therefore trust thou in him.

Ezekiel 37:11 (Parallel theme): Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

Hebrews 5:7 (Parallel theme): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Isaiah 49:14 (Parallel theme): But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me.

Isaiah 6:5 (Parallel theme): Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Jonah 2:4 (Parallel theme): Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

1 Samuel 23:26 (Parallel theme): And Saul went on this side of the mountain, and David and his men on that side of the mountain: and David made haste to get away for fear of Saul; for Saul and his men compassed David and his men round about to take them.

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