

Psalms 32:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

Analysis

For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. David transitions from personal testimony to universal principle—all godly should seek God in times of favor, because His protection sustains through floods of judgment. This links prayer timing with divine accessibility and guaranteed safety during trials.

For this signals that what follows derives from preceding testimony. Because confession brings forgiveness (vv. 1-5), every godly person should follow David's example. This establishes universal application: David's experience isn't unique but paradigmatic for all believers. Psalm moves from I to every one, from testimony to exhortation.

Every one that is godly identifies audience. Hebrew chasid means faithful one, saint, one who practices covenant love (chesed). These are people in faithful covenant relationship with God, marked by loyal devotion. Exhortation addresses believing community—not generic humanity but those already in relationship with God, who should deepen through prayer.

Pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found ('eth metso—time of finding, season when God is accessible) combines urgency with opportunity. Isaiah 55:6 echoes this: Seek the LORD while He may be found. Phrasing implies seasons of

special grace exist—times when God invites seeking, when doors stand open. Godly should seize opportunities rather than presume on perpetual accessibility.

Surely in the floods of great waters (sheteph mayim rabim—overwhelming calamity, destructive judgment) represents catastrophic trials. These floods shall not come nigh—won't approach, reach, or touch one who has sought God in His time. Not promise of no trials but preservation through trials. God protects those who've established relationship through prayer. Metaphor anticipates Noah's flood (only those in ark survived) and baptism (those in Christ pass through judgment waters safely).

Historical Context

Imagery of floods as divine judgment pervades Scripture. Genesis flood destroyed earth, sparing only Noah's family. Israel passed through Red Sea while Egypt drowned. Prophets use flood imagery for God's overwhelming judgment (Isaiah 8:7-8, 28:2,17). David employs standard metaphor: just as literal floods destroy but ark saves, spiritual judgment threatens but God's protection preserves.

Phrase time when thou mayest be found may allude to Day of Atonement traditions. Yom Kippur was Israel's annual time when God could be found, when national confession and atonement occurred. This was calendar's moment of special accessibility when God promised to hear and forgive. David universalizes principle: regularly seek God in seasons of grace, establishing relationship before crisis arrives.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does it mean practically to seek God in time when He may be found?
How recognize these seasons?
2. Why should confession and prayer be proactive (in times of accessibility) rather than only reactive (in crisis)?
3. How does flood imagery both warn of judgment and comfort believers regarding God's protection?
4. In what ways does delaying confession or failing to seek God during times of grace prove dangerous?
5. How does baptism serve as New Testament flood—waters of judgment we pass through safely in Christ?

Interlinear Text

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|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| עַל H5921 | זֶה H2063 | אֶת H6419 | לִּי H3605 | יִתְפַּלֵּא H6419 | כָּל H3605 | חֹסֵד H2623 | יְהוָה H413 |
| | | | | pray | | For this shall every one that is godly | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | לְעֵת H6256 | מָהְצֵא H4672 | בְּקֵץ H7535 | לְשֹׁטָף H7858 |
| | | | | unto thee in a time | when thou mayest be found | surely in the floods | waters |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | יְהוָה H7227 | אֵל H413 | גָּדוֹל H3808 | לֹא יִבָּעוּ H5060 |
| | | | | of great | | they shall not come nigh | |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 55:6 (Parallel theme): Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Isaiah 43:2 (Parallel theme): When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

2 Corinthians 6:2 (Parallel theme): (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

John 7:34 (Parallel theme): Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.

Psalms 4:3 (References God): But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.

Psalms 42:7 (Parallel theme): Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.

Psalms 40:3 (References God): And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

Proverbs 1:28 (Parallel theme): Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

Isaiah 49:8 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;

Psalms 144:7 (Parallel theme): Send thine hand from above; rid me, and deliver me out of great waters, from the hand of strange children;