

Psalm 34:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

Analysis

The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. David returns to positive declarations about righteous (contrasting with judgment on wicked, v. 16). This promises God's attentive response to righteous prayers and comprehensive deliverance from troubles.

The righteous cry connects prayer with righteousness. Righteous (*tsaddiq*) means just, in right relationship with God, covenant-faithful. These aren't sinlessly perfect but those justified by faith, walking in obedience. Cry (*tsa'aq*) means call out, shout for help, earnestly appeal. This is desperate prayer, not casual request. Righteous face troubles (v. 19), but they cry to God rather than trusting themselves or turning to idols. Prayer is both mark and means of righteousness.

And the LORD heareth testifies to divine response. Heareth (*shama'*) means listens attentively and acts purposefully. God doesn't merely acknowledge but responds to righteous prayers. This repeats theme from verse 6 (This poor man cried, and LORD heard him) and verse 15 (Eyes of LORD are upon righteous, His ears open to their cry). Pattern holds: God hears righteous prayers consistently, not occasionally; reliably, not capriciously. This is covenant faithfulness—God promised to hear His people, and He does.

And delivereth them out of all their troubles completes promise. Delivereth (*natsal*) means rescues, saves, pulls from danger. Out of all their troubles emphasizes comprehensive salvation. All their troubles (*tsarah*—distress, adversity,

affliction) includes every kind of difficulty—physical, emotional, spiritual, relational. God's deliverance isn't partial or selective but comprehensive. He saves from all troubles, not leaving righteous stuck in any affliction.

This doesn't promise trouble-free life. Verse 19 acknowledges: Many are afflictions of righteous. But promises: LORD delivers him out of them all. Righteous face troubles but aren't abandoned in them. God hears cries and delivers. Paul experienced this paradox: perplexed but not in despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). Deliverance comes—sometimes in time, always in eternity.

Historical Context

God hearing righteous and delivering from troubles threads through redemptive history. Abraham prayed and God intervened (Genesis 18:23-33, 20:17). Moses cried out and God delivered Israel (Exodus 14:15, 15:25). Hannah wept and God gave Samuel (1 Samuel 1:10-20). Hezekiah prayed and God destroyed Assyrian army (2 Kings 19:14-35). Pattern holds: righteous cry, God hears, deliverance comes.

Jesus promised: Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened (Matthew 7:7). Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it (John 14:13-14). 1 John 5:14-15: This is confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us; and if we know He hears us, we know we have petitions we've asked. Prayer's effectiveness depends on God's faithfulness, not our worthiness.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does righteous cry look like practically—how does desperate prayer differ from casual requests?
2. How have you experienced God hearing your cries and delivering from troubles?
3. Why does David emphasize all their troubles—what does comprehensive deliverance reveal about God's commitment?
4. How do you reconcile promise of deliverance with reality that some troubles persist through life?
5. In what ways does confident prayer (expecting God to hear) demonstrate covenant faith?

Interlinear Text

אָזְעָק וְיִהְיֶה הַשְׁמָעָה וְמִכְלָל רֹתֶךָ אֶלָּא
The righteous cry and the LORD heareth them out of all their troubles
H6817 H3068 H8085 H3605 H6869

הַצְּלָמָה
and delivereth
H5337

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 65:24 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

Psalms 34:6 (References Lord): This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

Psalms 34:19 (Righteousness): Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Psalms 91:15 (Parallel theme): He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Psalms 34:15 (Righteousness): The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

2 Chronicles 32:24 (References Lord): In those days Hezekiah was sick to the death, and prayed unto the LORD: and he spake unto him, and he gave him a sign.

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