

Psalm 34:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

Analysis

The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate. David concludes Psalm 34 with comprehensive promise of redemption and protection. This summarizes entire psalm—God delivers His people, and those trusting Him are never forsaken. Ending provides assurance and invitation.

The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants declares God's saving action. Redeemeth (padah) means ransom, deliver, rescue by payment. This is Exodus language—God redeemed (padah) Israel from Egypt (Deuteronomy 7:8, 9:26, 13:5). Soul (nephesh) means life, person, being. His servants ('ebed) identifies covenant people—those belonging to God, serving Him. God ransoms His servants' lives from danger, death, destruction. This is comprehensive salvation—not merely improving circumstances but delivering from ultimate threats.

And none of them that trust in him shall be desolate promises preservation from judgment. None (kol) means not any, without exception. Them that trust (chasah) are those taking refuge in God, fleeing to Him for safety. Shall be desolate ('asham) means become guilty, bear judgment, be held accountable. Promise isn't that trusting ones never face trials (verse 19 acknowledges many afflictions) but that they never bear ultimate judgment. God's wrath doesn't fall on them; condemnation doesn't reach them. They're preserved from desolation that destroys wicked (v. 21).

This echoes Romans 8:1: There is therefore now no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:33-34: Who shall bring charge against God's elect? It's God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It's Christ who died, yes rather who is risen, who is even at right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Those trusting Christ shall never be desolate—never condemned, never forsaken, never ultimately lost. This is perseverance of saints—true believers endure because God preserves them.

Psalm 34 began with David's resolve: I will bless LORD at all times (v. 1). It ends with confident promise: None trusting Him shall be desolate. Between these bookends, David testified to deliverance, invited others to taste and see, taught fear of LORD, promised blessings for righteous, warned judgment for wicked. Conclusion synthesizes all—God redeems His servants; those trusting Him are preserved. This is gospel summary: redemption accomplished, judgment averted, trust rewarded.

Historical Context

Redemption (padah) language pervades Exodus narrative. God redeemed Israel from Egyptian slavery (Exodus 6:6, 15:13), not by their merit but by His power and grace. Firstborn were redeemed by Passover lamb's blood (Exodus 13:13-15). This established pattern: God saves His people by redemption—paying price, delivering from bondage, bringing into freedom.

New Testament fulfills Old Testament redemption. Jesus is Lamb of God taking away world's sin (John 1:29). His blood redeems us (Ephesians 1:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19). He gave His life ransom for many (Mark 10:45). Those trusting Him shall never be desolate—never condemned (John 5:24), never perish (John 10:28), never be separated from God's love (Romans 8:38-39). Old Testament redemption finds ultimate fulfillment in Christ's redemptive work.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that LORD redeems soul of His servants—how does redemption differ from mere improvement?
2. How does promise that none trusting God shall be desolate provide assurance regarding salvation's security?
3. In what ways does Old Testament redemption language (Exodus deliverance) illuminate New Testament salvation?
4. How have you experienced God redeeming your soul from various threats, dangers, or bondages?
5. Why does David conclude with invitation to trust rather than command to achieve—what does this reveal about salvation?

Interlinear Text

redeemeth	The LORD	the soul	of his servants	H3808	in him shall be desolate
H6299	H3068	H5315	H5650		H816
בָּרָאֵת	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ	בָּרוּךְ		
H3605	and none of them that trust	H2620	H0		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 103:4 (Redemption): Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

Psalms 71:23 (Redemption): My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee; and my soul, which thou hast redeemed.

Revelation 5:9 (Redemption): And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

2 Samuel 4:9 (Redemption): And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said unto them, As the LORD liveth, who hath redeemed my soul out of all adversity,

Psalms 31:5 (Redemption): Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

1 Kings 1:29 (Redemption): And the king sware, and said, As the LORD liveth, that hath redeemed my soul out of all distress,

Psalms 130:8 (Redemption): And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Genesis 48:16 (Redemption): The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

1 Peter 1:5 (Faith): Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Lamentations 3:58 (Redemption): O Lord, thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul; thou hast redeemed my life.