

Psalms 35:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lord, how long wilt thou look on? rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions.

Analysis

The cry 'how long' echoes throughout Psalms, expressing the tension between faith and felt abandonment. 'My darling' (Hebrew 'yachid,' only one, unique) likely refers to his life or soul, something precious and singular. Protection from 'lions' metaphorically represents powerful, violent enemies. This petition acknowledges God's sovereignty over timing while urgently requesting relief, modeling prayer that's both submissive and honest.

Historical Context

David's background as shepherd facing literal lions (1 Samuel 17:34-37) lends authenticity to this metaphor. His early experiences prepared him to trust God against human 'lions' seeking to devour him.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain faith during 'how long' seasons when God seems silent?
2. What 'lions' threaten you, and how can you trust God's deliverance?

Interlinear Text

אֲדֹנָי כַּמָּה ה

Lord

H136

H4100

תִּרְאֶה ה

how long wilt thou look on

H7200

נִפְשִׁי הֲשֵׁב יָבָהּ

rescue

H7725

my soul

H5315

מִשְׁאִיָּהּ מ

from their destructions

H7722

מִכְּפִירֵי יָם

from the lions

H3715

יְחִידָתִי:

my darling

H3173

Additional Cross-References

Habakkuk 1:13 (Parallel theme): Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?

Psalms 89:46 (References Lord): How long, LORD? wilt thou hide thyself for ever? shall thy wrath burn like fire?

Psalms 6:3 (References Lord): My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long?

Psalms 10:14 (Parallel theme): Thou hast seen it; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite it with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless.

Psalms 57:4 (Parallel theme): My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.