

Psalms 35:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help.

Analysis

The military imagery of shield and buckler (a smaller shield worn on the arm) portrays God as the divine warrior fighting on behalf of His people. This reflects the Hebrew understanding of Yahweh Sabaoth ('LORD of hosts'), emphasizing God's active intervention in defense of the righteous. The call for God to 'stand up' anthropomorphically depicts divine action, showing that prayer moves the sovereign God to act.

Historical Context

Written by David, likely during the period of Saul's persecution or Absalom's rebellion when enemies sought his life. Ancient Near Eastern warfare heavily relied on defensive armor, making the shield metaphor immediately resonant with the original audience.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does viewing God as your defender change the way you face opposition?

2. In what situations do you need to trust God's protection rather than your own strength?

Interlinear Text

קַח	מגן	וְצַדִּיקָה	קַח וַיָּמָה	בְּעֶזְרִתִּי:
Take hold	of shield	and buckler	and stand up	for mine help
H2388	H4043	H6793	H6965	H5833

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 91:4 (Parallel theme): He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Isaiah 42:13 (Parallel theme): The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies.

Exodus 15:3 (Parallel theme): The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.

Isaiah 13:5 (Parallel theme): They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land.