

# Psalms 35:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This thou hast seen, O LORD: keep not silence: O Lord, be not far from me.

## Analysis

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The progression from 'keep not silence' to 'be not far from me' reveals David's dual need—for God's voice (vindication) and God's presence (communion). The Hebrew 'charash' (keep silence) doesn't mean God is unaware but that He hasn't yet spoken in judgment or deliverance. This petition trusts that God's speech creates reality, that His word changes circumstances, echoing the creative power of divine declaration in Genesis 1.

## Historical Context

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In ancient covenant contexts, silence could imply consent or abandonment. David's appeal presumes the covenant relationship where God promised to hear and respond to His people's cries.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. When God seems silent, how do you persist in prayer?
2. What would it mean for God to 'speak' into your current situation?

## Interlinear Text

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כָּא יתָה	אֵל ! הָיָה	תִּתְכַּחַשׁ	אֲדֹנָי	אֵל	תִּרְחֹק
<b>This thou hast seen</b>	<b>O LORD</b>	<b>keep not silence</b>	<b>O Lord</b>		<b>be not far</b>
H7200	H3068	H2790	H136	H408	H7368

מִמְּנִי:  
H4480

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 10:1** (References Lord): Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?

**Exodus 3:7** (References Lord): And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

**Psalms 28:1** (References Lord): Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit.

**Psalms 71:12** (Parallel theme): O God, be not far from me: O my God, make haste for my help.

**Psalms 22:11** (Parallel theme): Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.

**Psalms 38:21** (References Lord): Forsake me not, O LORD: O my God, be not far from me.