

Psalm 35:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

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

תְּרִמֵּם קָרְבָּן	אַל	אַל יִתְהַ	תְּחִנֵּן שֶׁ	אַל אַדְנֵי	אַל	תְּרִמֵּם קָרְבָּן
This thou hast seen	O LORD	H408	keep not silence	O Lord	H408	be not far
H7200	H3068		H2790	H136		H7368

מִתְּפִבָּר

H4480

Additional Cross-References

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.