

Psalms 36:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

Analysis

The metaphor shifts from eating (v. 8) to drinking from 'the fountain of life,' portraying God as the ultimate source of vitality. 'In thy light shall we see light' indicates that divine illumination enables true perception—without God's revelation, we remain in darkness, unable to discern reality. This verse is foundational to Reformed epistemology: all knowledge depends on God's self-disclosure. Jesus claims to be both 'the light of the world' (John 8:12) and 'the life' (John 14:6), fulfilling this psalm christologically.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures associated life with water (crucial in arid climates) and light with truth, order, and divine presence. David combines these to express comprehensive dependence on God for existence and understanding.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's 'light' help you see reality more clearly?
2. In what ways are spiritual life and spiritual understanding inseparably connected?

Interlinear Text

גֶּרֶאָה אֶאָרֶז כִּי יִמְלֹא עַמְּךָ וְרַקְעָן
H3588 H5973 For with thee is the fountain H4726 of life in thy light shall we see
H2416 H216 H7200

אֶאָרֶז
in thy light
H216

Additional Cross-References

John 8:12 (Light): Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 4:14 (Parallel theme): But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:10 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

1 John 1:7 (Light): But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Revelation 21:6 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Isaiah 60:19 (Light): The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

Jeremiah 2:13 (Parallel theme): For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

2 Corinthians 4:6 (Light): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

James 1:17 (Light): Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Job 29:3 (Light): When his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness;