

Psalms 37:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Analysis

I have been young, and now am old (נָעַר הָיִיתִי גַם־זָקָנִיתִי, na'ar hayiti gam-zaqanti)—David's personal testimony spanning decades provides empirical weight to faith claims. **Yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread** (וְלֹא־רָאִיתִי צַדִּיק נֶעְזָב וְזָרֹ מֵעֶשֶׂה לַחֶם, v'lo-ra'iti tsaddiq ne'ezav v'zaro mevaqesh-lachem)—azav (forsaken/abandoned) echoes Jesus's cry: "My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Psalm 22:1, Matthew 27:46). David never witnessed permanent abandonment of the genuinely righteous.

Critics cite Job and martyrs as counter-examples, but the verse addresses long-term covenant faithfulness, not temporary suffering. God's provision may be miraculous (Elijah fed by ravens, 1 Kings 17:6) or ordinary (daily work), but He sustains His own. Paul testified similarly: "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11).

Historical Context

David's testimony came after fugitive years (eating showbread at Nob, 1 Samuel 21) and kingship prosperity. His long view corrects short-term panic. Written likely in his 60s, reflecting on God's provision through famine, war, exile, and restoration.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What empirical evidence from your own life supports God's faithfulness in provision?
2. How does distinguishing between temporary hardship and permanent abandonment help you trust God during lean times?

Interlinear Text

נַ עַרְן	הִי יִתִּי	גַם	אֲנִי זֶה נָתִי	וְלֹא	כִּי אִיתִי
I have been young	H1961	H1571	and now am old	H3808	yet have I not seen
H5288			H2204		H7200
צִדִּיק	נִעַזְּ בִּ	אִי זֶרַע וְ	מִבְּקֶשׁ	לֶחֶם:	
the righteous	forsaken	nor his seed	begging	bread	
H6662	H5800	H2233	H1245	H3899	

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 13:5 (Parallel theme): Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Psalms 37:28 (Parallel theme): For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

Psalms 25:13 (Parallel theme): His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.

Psalms 112:2 (Parallel theme): His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

1 Samuel 12:22 (Parallel theme): For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

Psalms 94:14 (Parallel theme): For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance.

2 Corinthians 4:9 (Parallel theme): Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

Psalms 71:18 (Parallel theme): Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.

Joshua 1:5 (Parallel theme): There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Genesis 17:7 (Parallel theme): And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.