

Psalms 37:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

Analysis

And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them (וַיִּשְׁׁצֶרֶם יְהוָה וַיִּפְלֹטֵם, ve-ya'zerem YHWH vi-yfalletem)—Azar means aid; palat means deliver, rescue. **Because they trust in him** (כִּי־חָסוּ בּוֹ, ki-chasu vo)—Chasu means take refuge in, trust in.

Four Hebrew verbs (help, deliver, deliver again, save) emphasize comprehensive divine action. The final phrase reveals the key: **because they trust in him**. Not because they're sinless, but because they flee to him for refuge. This is the psalm's thesis—trust in YHWH produces stability, vindication, and peace. Proverbs 3:5-6 echoes this; Hebrews 10:39 applies it to Christian perseverance.

Historical Context

This summarizes Israel's exodus narrative, David's life story, and the early church's persecution experience. Each deliverance strengthened subsequent trust. The Maccabean period, Roman persecution, and centuries of martyrdom witnessed this promise: God delivers those who take refuge in him.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does this verse distinguish between trusting God and trusting in your own righteousness?
2. In what current situation do you need to actively "take refuge" in God rather than human solutions?
3. How does understanding deliverance as both temporal and eternal help you persevere through difficulties?

Interlinear Text

וְעֵזֶר הֵם	יְהוָה ה	וְיִפְּלוּ הֵם	וְיִפְּלוּ הֵם	מִרְשָׁעִים
shall help	And the LORD	them and deliver	them and deliver	them from the wicked
H5826	H3068	H6403	H6403	H7563
וְיִוָּשִׁיעַ הֵם	כִּי	וְיִפְּלוּ הֵם	בְּ:	
and save	H3588	them because they trust	H0	
H3467		H2620		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 31:5 (References Lord): As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.

1 Chronicles 5:20 (Faith): And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all that were with them: for they cried to God in the battle, and he was intreated of them; because they put their trust in him.

Daniel 6:23 (Faith): Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

Daniel 3:28 (Faith): Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

Daniel 3:17 (Parallel theme): If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

Isaiah 46:4 (Parallel theme): And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

1 John 5:18 (Evil): We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

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