

Psalms 38:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For in thee, O LORD, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God.

Analysis

For in thee, O LORD, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God. The psalm's theological core: David's hope (יָחַל, yachal, wait expectantly) rests in LORD (יְהוָה, YHWH, covenant name). He trusts: thou wilt hear (תַּעֲנֵה, ta'aneh, answer/respond), addressing God as Lord my God (אֲדֹנָיִי אֱלֹהָי, Adonai Elohay, sovereign + personal God).

The triple divine address—YHWH (covenant), Adonai (sovereign), Elohay (my God)—appeals to God's character, power, and relationship. David's silence before men (vv.13-14) springs from speech toward God. Yachal implies patient, confident waiting—not passive but expectant. Though currently unanswered (vv.1-14), David affirms God will hear—faith's certainty about God's future action.

Historical Context

This verse forms the theological hinge: everything before describes David's suffering; everything after flows from this hope. Ancient near eastern worship often involved 'name theology'—invoking specific divine names/titles to appeal to corresponding attributes. David carefully selects names emphasizing covenant faithfulness, sovereignty, and personal relationship.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does David's three-fold address (YHWH, Adonai, Elohay) model comprehensive trust in God's character, power, and love?
2. When you're tempted to defend yourself, how might shifting focus to 'in thee do I hope' change your response?
3. What does it mean to 'hope in the LORD' when current circumstances show no evidence of His hearing?

Interlinear Text

פִּי	לְךָ	יְהוָה	הוֹדֵ לְתִי	אֶתְּ	תִשְׁמַע	אֲדֹנָי
H3588	H0	For in thee O LORD	do I hope	H859	thou wilt hear	O Lord
		H3068	H3176		H6030	H136
אֱלֹהֵי						
my God						
H430						

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 39:7 (Hope): And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee.

Psalms 17:6 (References God): I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech.

Psalms 138:3 (Parallel theme): In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.