

Psalms 5:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

Analysis

After describing God's hatred of sinners, David contrasts himself not through self-righteousness but through God's mercy. 'The multitude of thy mercy' (Hebrew 'rob chesed' - abundance of covenant love) is his only plea. David will worship 'in thy fear' - reverential awe, not terror. The temple (literally 'holy temple' or 'palace of holiness') represents God's presence. This verse captures the Reformed doctrine of sola gratia - we approach God solely through His mercy, not our merit, yet this grace produces holy fear and worship.

Historical Context

Though written before Solomon's temple, David speaks prophetically of the future worship center. 'Thy fear' reflects proper covenant relationship - not cringing terror but reverent respect. The temple would be the place where God's mercy and holiness met, ultimately fulfilled in Christ who is both our mercy seat and our temple (John 2:19-21).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Do you approach God presuming on His mercy or with appropriate reverential fear?
2. How does awareness of God's abundant mercy toward you increase your worship?

Interlinear Text

וְאֲנִי	בְּרַב	חַסְדֶּךָ	אֲבֵי וְאֵ	בֵּיתְךָ
H589	in the multitude	of thy mercy	But as for me I will come	into thy house
	H7230	H2617	H935	H1004
אֶשְׁתַּחֲוֶה	אֶל	הַיְכָל	קִדְשְׁךָ	בִּירְאָתְךָ:
will I worship	H413	temple	toward thy holy	and in thy fear
H7812		H1964	H6944	H3374

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 138:2 (Holy): I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

Psalms 132:7 (Worship): We will go into his tabernacles: we will worship at his footstool.

Psalms 69:13 (Grace): But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.

Hebrews 4:16 (Grace): Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Isaiah 55:7 (Grace): Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Daniel 6:10 (Parallel theme): Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Joshua 24:15 (Parallel theme): And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Acts 9:31 (Holy): Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

1 Kings 8:38 (Parallel theme): What prayer and supplication soever be made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house:

Hosea 3:5 (Parallel theme): Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.