

Psalms 52:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints.

Analysis

I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints. This concluding verse expresses David's commitment to perpetual praise and patient trust, grounded in God's character and actions. The structure moves from praise (past action) to patient waiting (future hope) to communal testimony (before the saints).

"I will praise thee for ever" (odekha le'olam, אָזֶךְ לְעוֹלָם) uses yadah (יָדָה), meaning to praise, give thanks, confess. This is worship that acknowledges God's character and deeds. Le'olam (לְעוֹלָם) means forever, eternally—not momentary gratitude but eternal commitment to worship. David's praise isn't circumstantial response but eternal posture regardless of circumstances.

"Because thou hast done it" (ki asita, קִי עָשָׂת) provides the reason for praise. Asah (עָשָׂת) means to do, make, accomplish. The pronoun is emphatic: "YOU have done it." What has God done? In immediate context: judged the wicked (v.5), vindicated the righteous, demonstrated His justice. Broadly: God acts—He intervenes, He delivers, He judges, He saves. David's praise responds to divine action in history, not abstract theology. God isn't merely believed about but experienced as active in human affairs.

"And I will wait on thy name" (va'aqaveh shimkha, וְאָקַבְתָּ שִׁמְךָ) uses qavah (קָבַח), meaning to wait, hope, expect with confident anticipation. This isn't passive resignation but active expectation—watching for God's next intervention, trusting

His continued faithfulness. "Thy name" (shem, שם) represents God's revealed character, His reputation, His nature. To wait on God's name means trusting in who He is—His faithfulness, justice, mercy, power.

"For it is good before thy saints" (ki-tov neged chasideyka, כי טוב נגד צסידין) concludes with communal context. Tov (טוב) means good—God's name is good, trustworthy, beneficial, worthy. Naged (נגד) means before, in the presence of, in the sight of. Chasidim (חסידים) means faithful ones, godly ones, saints—those characterized by chesed (covenant loyalty). David's trust and praise happen "before the saints"—in community, as public testimony, witnessed by other believers. This is corporate worship, not isolated piety. The righteous confirm together that God's character is good, His name is trustworthy.

Historical Context

The phrase "thou hast done it" points to God's active intervention in history, which Israel experienced repeatedly: deliverance from Egypt, crossing the Red Sea, conquest of Canaan, victory over enemies, establishment of David's kingdom. David personally experienced divine intervention: victory over Goliath, deliverance from Saul's pursuit, establishment as king, covenant promise of eternal dynasty. Each "thou hast done it" moment built confidence for future trust.

The concept of "waiting on the LORD" appears throughout Scripture. Psalm 27:14: "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." Isaiah 40:31: "They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles." Lamentations 3:25-26: "The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD."

This waiting combines trust and expectation. It isn't passive acceptance of whatever happens but confident anticipation that God will act according to His character. Abraham waited 25 years for Isaac. Moses waited 40 years in Midian before leading Israel. David waited years between anointing and kingship. This waiting tests and strengthens faith.

"Before thy saints" emphasizes corporate dimension. Hebrews 10:24-25: "let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together." Israel gathered for festivals, Sabbath worship, temple ceremonies. Early church gathered for teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayers (Acts 2:42). David's praise and trust weren't private meditation but public testimony that encouraged other believers and glorified God corporately.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to praise God 'for ever' (eternally) rather than only when circumstances are favorable, and how is this practiced?
2. How does recognizing that 'God has done it' (acted in history) strengthen faith to wait expectantly for what He will do next?
3. What is the relationship between waiting on God (patient trust) and praising God (active worship), and why do we need both?
4. Why is waiting on 'God's name' (His revealed character) different from merely waiting to see what happens, and how does this focus help during trials?
5. How does expressing faith 'before the saints' (in community) strengthen both your own faith and the faith of other believers?

Interlinear Text

אָזַב	לְעוֹלָם	כִּי	עָשָׂתָּה	תִּאָזְבֵּנִי
I will praise	thee for ever	H3588	because thou hast done	it and I will wait
H3034	H5769		H6213	H6960

שְׁמַךְ	כִּי	בְּפִזְבִּים	בְּפִזְבִּים
on thy name	H3588	for it is good	before thy saints

H8034 H2896 H5048 H2623

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 54:6 (Resurrection): I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O LORD; for it is good.

Psalms 73:28 (Good): But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

Psalms 62:5 (Parallel theme): My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.

Psalms 62:1 (Parallel theme): Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.

Psalms 40:1 (Parallel theme): I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

Proverbs 18:10 (Parallel theme): The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Psalms 146:2 (Resurrection): While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

Psalms 27:14 (Good): Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.