

Psalm 56:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee.

Analysis

Vows made to God create covenant obligation. The Hebrew 'neder' (vow) was a serious commitment, often involving sacrifices or service. David's vows are 'upon me' indicating binding obligation. 'I will render praises' shows that thanksgiving is not optional emotional response but covenant duty owed to God for deliverance.

Historical Context

Vows in ancient Israel were legally binding and made in contexts of crisis or petition. Failure to fulfill vows was serious sin (Ecclesiastes 5:4-6). David's vows likely included sacrifices and public testimony of God's deliverance once he became king.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What vows or commitments have you made to God that require fulfillment?
2. How does viewing thanksgiving as covenant obligation rather than optional sentiment change your practice?

Interlinear Text

לְךָ תֹּדֵת אֲשֶׁל מִתְּבָנָה יְבָנָה אֱלֹהִים עַל־
H5921 are upon me O God H430 Thy vows H5088 I will render H7999 praises H8426 H0

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 50:14 (References God): Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:

Psalms 119:106 (Parallel theme): I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments.

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