

Psalm 56:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

Analysis

The question 'hast thou not delivered my soul from death?' is a confident assertion, not a doubt. Deliverance from death points beyond physical preservation to spiritual redemption. The purpose clause 'that I may walk before God in the light of the living' reveals that salvation's goal is covenant fellowship—walking in God's presence. This anticipates eternal life as knowing God (John 17:3).

Historical Context

David's deliverance from numerous death threats validated God's covenant promise to establish his throne. Walking 'in the light of the living' contrasts with Sheol's darkness, indicating life in God's favor as covenant blessing.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does understanding salvation's purpose as walking with God affect your daily priorities?

2. In what ways does deliverance from spiritual death surpass deliverance from physical dangers?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	הָצָלָת	נֶפֶשׁ	מִמְּרוֹת	כָּל
H3588	For thou hast delivered	my soul	from death	H3808
	H5337	H5315	H4194	
כְּלָל	לְהַתְפִּלָּנָה	מִן־חַיִּים	לְפָנֵי	אֱלֹהִים
wilt not thou deliver my feet	from falling	that I may walk	before	God
H7272	H1762	H1980	H6440	H430
בְּאֹורָה	בְּמִימָן	בְּאֹורָה	לְפָנֵי	אֱלֹהִים
in the light	of the living			
H216	H2416			

Additional Cross-References

Job 33:30 (Light): To bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living.

Psalms 17:5 (Parallel theme): Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.

Psalms 49:15 (References God): But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (Parallel theme): And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Isaiah 2:5 (Light): O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Genesis 17:1 (References God): And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Isaiah 38:3 (Parallel theme): And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

Psalms 94:18 (Parallel theme): When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up.

Psalms 145:14 (Parallel theme): The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.

James 5:20 (Parallel theme): Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.