

Psalms 57:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me.

Analysis

I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me.

This verse transitions from refuge-seeking to active appeal, from defensive posture to confident petition. "I will cry" (eqra, אֶקְרָא) is emphatic future: "I myself will call out, will summon, will invoke." This isn't quiet prayer but urgent crying out—appropriate response to desperate circumstances. The Psalms repeatedly model vocal, passionate prayer as legitimate expression of faith.

"God most high" (El Elyon, יְהָוָה הָרָא) emphasizes divine sovereignty and supremacy. Elyon means highest, uppermost, supreme—the God above all gods, powers, and authorities. This title first appears when Melchizedek blessed Abraham by "God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth" (Genesis 14:18-19). Against Saul's earthly power and political authority, David appeals to the supreme authority over all earthly powers. No human king, no matter how powerful, exceeds the jurisdiction or ability of El Elyon.

"That performeth all things for me" reveals the basis for David's confident appeal. "Performeth" (gomer, יְמִמְרָא) means to complete, finish, accomplish, bring to pass. God is the completer, the one who finishes what He starts. "All things for me" (alai, עֲלֵיכָם) literally means "concerning me," "on my behalf," "for my benefit." This echoes Philippians 1:6: "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

The verse expresses comprehensive confidence: God completes everything

concerning His servant. This doesn't mean God grants every request but that He accomplishes His purposes for David's life. David's confidence rests not in his own plans succeeding but in God's sovereign purposes being fulfilled. Even when circumstances seem to threaten God's promises—Saul reigning while David is anointed as future king—God will complete what He purposed.

Historical Context

The title 'God Most High' (El Elyon) has significant theological import. When Melchizedek blessed Abraham using this title (Genesis 14:18-19), he identified Yahweh as supreme over all gods worshiped by surrounding nations. In ancient Near Eastern polytheism, various gods ruled different spheres—war, fertility, storms, etc. By invoking El Elyon, David asserts that Israel's God reigns supreme over every competing authority, including Saul's kingship.

David's confidence that God 'performs all things' for him rests on specific promises. Samuel had anointed David as future king (1 Samuel 16:13), and "the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward." Despite years of fugitive existence with that promise unfulfilled, David trusted God would complete what He'd begun. This faith sustained him through approximately a decade of running from Saul.

The theme of God completing His purposes appears throughout Scripture. God promised Abraham descendants like stars (Genesis 15:5); centuries of barrenness, slavery, and wandering followed before fulfillment. God promised David an eternal dynasty (2 Samuel 7:16); political collapse, exile, and centuries passed before Messiah came. Yet God performed everything He promised.

For New Testament believers, God's commitment to complete what He begins finds fulfillment in Christ and application to sanctification. Jesus declared, 'I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it' (Matthew 16:18). Paul assured Philippian believers that 'He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ' (Philippians 1:6). God's character guarantees completion of His purposes.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does crying out to God 'most high' during crisis reflect proper understanding of God's sovereignty over all earthly powers and circumstances?
2. What is the difference between expecting God to grant all our requests versus trusting God to 'perform all things' concerning His purposes for our lives?
3. How can we develop the kind of confidence David expresses here—that God will complete everything He has begun in us—even when circumstances seem to contradict His promises?
4. In what ways does appealing to 'God most high' provide perspective when facing human opposition or institutional power?
5. What does it mean practically to cry out to God rather than merely worry silently, and how does vocal prayer strengthen faith during trials?

Interlinear Text

עַלְיָהִים אֶלְעָלָה יְמִינֵךְ רְגִמְתִּי
unto God most high unto God that performeth
I will cry H430 H5945 H410 H1584 H5921

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 138:8 (Parallel theme): The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

Philippians 1:6 (Parallel theme): Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Hebrews 13:21 (Parallel theme): Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Isaiah 26:12 (Parallel theme): LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us.

Philippians 2:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Isaiah 57:15 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

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