

Psalms 6:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.

Analysis

This penitential psalm opens with a cry for measured discipline. David doesn't deny deserving punishment but pleads for mercy in its administration. The Hebrew 'yakach' (rebuke) means to correct or reprove, while 'yasar' (chasten) suggests disciplinary instruction. David distinguishes between God's 'anger' and 'hot displeasure' (fury), asking for correction without consuming wrath. This reflects understanding that God's discipline of His children differs from His judgment of enemies. Hebrews 12:6-11 confirms that God's chastening proves sonship and produces righteousness.

Historical Context

One of seven penitential psalms, likely written during serious illness or national crisis. The superscription links it to David, possibly during the aftermath of his sin with Bathsheba or during plague. Jewish tradition used this psalm in times of corporate repentance. It captures the believer's proper response to divine discipline - humble submission, not defiant rebellion.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when you recognize God's corrective discipline in your life?
2. Can you distinguish between God's loving correction and Satan's condemning accusations?

Interlinear Text

אֵל יְהוָה	בְּאַפִּי	וְאֵל תּוֹכִיחַ נִי	בְּחַמְדְּךָ
O LORD	me not in thine anger	rebuke	me in thy hot displeasure
H3068	H639	H3198	H2534

תִּסְרָנִי:
neither chasten
H3256

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 38:1 (References Lord): O LORD, rebuke me not in thy wrath: neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.

Psalms 118:18 (References Lord): The LORD hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.

Jeremiah 46:28 (References Lord): Fear thou not, O Jacob my servant, saith the LORD: for I am with thee; for I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have driven thee: but I will not make a full end of thee, but correct thee in measure; yet will I not leave thee wholly unpunished.

Jeremiah 10:24 (References Lord): O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.

Isaiah 57:16 (Parallel theme): For I will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth: for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made.

1 Chronicles 15:21 (Parallel theme): And Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and Obed-edom, and Jeiel, and Azaziah, with harps on the Sheminith to excel.

Isaiah 54:9 (Parallel theme): For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee.

Psalms 4:1 (Parallel theme): Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.

Psalms 12:1 (References Lord): Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.

Psalms 2:5 (Parallel theme): Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.