

Psalm 6:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping.

Analysis

Sudden shift from lament to confidence - the Lord has heard! This pattern (lament to assurance) is common in psalms and reflects prayer's transformative power. 'Workers of iniquity' identifies enemies by their character and actions. David's command 'Depart from me' shows renewed authority and confidence. The certainty that God 'hath heard' (perfect tense in Hebrew) indicates assurance of answered prayer, not just hopeful wishing. This foreshadows Jesus's words to evildoers in Matthew 7:23.

Historical Context

The sudden change from verse 7 to 8 likely reflects either a prophetic assurance received during prayer or the psalmist's liturgical movement from lament to trust. This psalm's structure taught Israel that God hears the prayers of His afflicted people, encouraging persevering prayer. Christians find this pattern in Christ's experience - from Gethsemane's anguish to resurrection triumph.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Have you experienced the shift from desperate prayer to confident assurance of God's response?
2. How does knowing God hears your prayers affect your persistence in prayer?

Interlinear Text

Depart	H4480	H3605	from me all ye workers	of iniquity	H3588	hath heard
	H5493		H6466		H205	
						H8085
for the LORD	H3068	H6963	the voice	of my weeping	H1065	

כָּל מִמְּנִי סִירָוִי פְּנָלִי אֵלִי כְּשָׁמָע עֲמָלֵךְ בְּכִיְּךְ יְהִי הָלֵךְ

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 145:18 (References Lord): The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

Luke 13:27 (Sin): But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

Psalms 119:115 (Parallel theme): Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.

Psalms 3:4 (References Lord): I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.

Matthew 7:23 (Sin): And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Hebrews 5:7 (Parallel theme): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Matthew 25:41 (Parallel theme): Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Psalms 139:19 (Parallel theme): Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men.

Isaiah 30:19 (Parallel theme): For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee.

Psalms 56:8 (Parallel theme): Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?