

Psalm 61:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall abide before God for ever: O prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him.

Analysis

The king abiding before God forever, preserved by mercy and truth, links David's temporal reign to eternal covenant. The Hebrew 'chesed' (mercy/lovingkindness) and 'emet' (truth/faithfulness) are covenant attributes (Exodus 34:6). These preserve not by human effort but divine character, anticipating Christ who embodies both grace and truth (John 1:14).

Historical Context

Kings 'abiding before God' indicates covenant standing maintained by divine attributes, not royal merit. This contrast with ancient Near Eastern kingship theology where kings claimed divine status rather than divine preservation.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do God's mercy and truth function as preserving powers in your life?
2. What does it mean to 'abide before God' in Christ?

Interlinear Text

בְּיָמֵינוּ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה יְמִינָה וְסִדְּרוֹתָה יְהוָה יְמִינָה וְסִדְּרוֹתָה
He shall abide for ever before God mercy and truth O prepare
H3427 H5769 H6440 H430 H2617 H571 H4487

וְנִצְּרָהָה:

which may preserve
H5341

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 40:11 (Truth): Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O LORD: let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me.

Genesis 24:27 (Grace): And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren.

Psalms 57:3 (Grace): He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth.

Hebrews 9:24 (Truth): For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Psalms 43:3 (Truth): O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.

Psalms 41:12 (Parallel theme): And as for me, thou upholdest me in mine integrity, and settest me before thy face for ever.

Luke 1:33 (Parallel theme): And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Micah 7:20 (Grace): Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

Proverbs 20:28 (Grace): Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.

Genesis 32:10 (Truth): I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

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