

Psalms 7:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart.

Analysis

David declares God as his defender, using military imagery. 'My defence' (Hebrew 'magen' - shield) depicts God as protective covering. 'Upright in heart' describes those whose inner character is straight and true - not sinless perfection but covenant integrity. This verse teaches that God defends those who maintain heart righteousness. While we must trust Christ's righteousness for salvation, genuine faith produces uprightness of heart that God protects. The shield metaphor appears throughout Scripture (Ephesians 6:16).

Historical Context

Shields were essential defensive equipment in ancient warfare. Calling God one's shield implied complete dependence on Him for protection. The phrase 'upright in heart' distinguishes genuine believers from hypocrites - God defends those whose hearts are truly His, not merely outward conformists.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Is God your primary defense, or do you rely more on human protections and strategies?
2. How does 'uprightness in heart' characterize your inner life before God?

Interlinear Text

מִגִּדִּי	עַל	אֱלֹהֵי יָם	מִן וְשֵׁי יָם	יִשְׂרָאֵל	לֵב:
My defence	H5921	is of God	which saveth	the upright	in heart
H4043		H430	H3467	H3477	H3820

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 84:11 (References God): For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Psalms 125:4 (Parallel theme): Do good, O LORD, unto those that be good, and to them that are upright in their hearts.

Proverbs 28:18 (Salvation): Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once.

Proverbs 11:20 (Parallel theme): They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.

Genesis 15:1 (Parallel theme): After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

Psalms 89:18 (Parallel theme): For the LORD is our defence; and the Holy One of Israel is our king.

Psalms 3:3 (Parallel theme): But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

Psalms 112:2 (Parallel theme): His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Job 8:6 (Parallel theme): If thou wert pure and upright; surely now he would awake for thee, and make the habitation of thy righteousness prosperous.

Proverbs 2:21 (Parallel theme): For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.

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