

Psalms 71:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape:
incline thine ear unto me, and save me.

Analysis

The appeal 'Deliver me in thy righteousness' grounds rescue not in the psalmist's merit but God's character. God's righteousness includes His covenant faithfulness—He must save His people to remain true to His promises. 'Cause me to escape' acknowledges inability to self-rescue. 'Incline thine ear' asks for God's attentive hearing. 'Save me' is direct petition. Each phrase emphasizes dependence on divine initiative and character, not human worthiness or effort.

Historical Context

God's righteousness bound Him to His covenant with Israel. This gave the faithful basis for confident petition—not presuming on grace but trusting God's own character and promises.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that God saves according to His righteousness, not your merit, provide assurance?

2. What does it mean to ask God to 'incline his ear' to you?
3. How can you cultivate humble dependence on God's character rather than confidence in your own righteousness?

Interlinear Text

בְּצַדְקָתֶךָ	פָּצַלْ נִ	וְתִפְלַטْ נִ	אַל־
me in thy righteousness	Deliver	and cause me to escape	incline
H6666	H5337	H6403	H413
וְהַשְׁעִינֵנִי	אֶלָּךְ		
thine ear	unto me and save		
H241	H3467		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 31:1 (Righteousness): In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness.

Psalms 17:6 (Parallel theme): I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech.

Psalms 17:2 (Parallel theme): Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal.

Psalms 43:1 (Righteousness): Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man.

Psalms 143:1 (Righteousness): Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness.

Psalms 143:11 (Righteousness): Quicken me, O LORD, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

Psalms 34:15 (Righteousness): The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (Parallel theme): There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be

tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Daniel 9:16 (Righteousness): O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.

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