

Psalms 71:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress.

Analysis

The prayer for God to be a 'strong habitation' portrays Him as fortress and dwelling place—both protection and home. 'Whereunto I may continually resort' suggests regular, ongoing refuge, not occasional crisis visits. God has 'given commandment to save me'—divine decree ensures deliverance. 'My rock and my fortress' combines immovability with defensive strength. God is simultaneously secure foundation and protective stronghold, perfectly safe shelter from all threats.

Historical Context

David's wilderness exile provided literal experience of caves and fortresses as refuge. These physical sanctuaries illustrated the greater spiritual reality of God Himself as ultimate safety.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How can you make 'continual resort' to God a daily practice, not just crisis response?
2. What does it mean that God has commanded your salvation—how does divine decree ensure your security?
3. In what ways is God both your foundation (rock) and your protection (fortress)?

Interlinear Text

הַיְיָ הַ	לִּי	לְצוּר	מָעוֹן	לְבָוָא	תָּמָּה יָד
H1961	H0	Be thou my strong	habitation	resort	whereunto I may continually
		H6697	H4583	H935	H8548
	צִוִּיתָ	לְהוֹשִׁיעַ נִי	כִּי	סֶלַע י	
	thou hast given commandment	to save	H3588	me for thou art my rock	
	H6680	H3467		H5553	
	וּמְצוּדָתִי	אַתָּה:			
	and my fortress	H859			
	H4686				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 18:2 (Salvation): The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Proverbs 18:10 (Parallel theme): The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Psalms 91:9 (Parallel theme): Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

Deuteronomy 33:27 (Parallel theme): The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

Isaiah 33:16 (Parallel theme): He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.

Psalms 44:4 (Parallel theme): Thou art my King, O God: command deliverances for Jacob.

Psalms 42:8 (Parallel theme): Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

Psalms 68:28 (Parallel theme): Thy God hath commanded thy strength: strengthen, O God, that which thou hast wrought for us.

Psalms 144:2 (Parallel theme): My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.

Psalms 90:1 (Parallel theme): Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.