

Psalms 71:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth.

Analysis

The plea 'Cast me not off in the time of old age' addresses the fear of abandonment when strength fails. 'Forsake me not when my strength faileth' acknowledges aging's vulnerability. This prayer rests on God's covenant faithfulness—He who began the work will complete it (Philippians 1:6). The aged believer's confidence isn't in sustained vigor but in God's unchanging commitment. Physical decline doesn't diminish divine faithfulness.

Historical Context

Ancient cultures often neglected the elderly and infirm, making old age precarious without family support. God's character as faithful protector contrasted sharply with human fickleness toward the weak.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise to sustain you through old age provide peace about aging and mortality?

2. What responsibilities do believers have toward elderly saints to demonstrate God's faithful care?
3. How can you prepare spiritually now for the physical challenges old age may bring?

Interlinear Text

אֶל	תִּשְׁלִיכֵנִי	לַעֲתָ	זְקֵנָה	כָּכֹל	וְאֵלֹהִים
H408	Cast me not off	in the time	of old age	faileth	me not when my strength
	H7993	H6256	H2209	H3615	H3581

אֶל	תַּעֲזֹבֵנִי:
H408	forsake
	H5800

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 46:4 (Parallel theme): And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

2 Timothy 1:12 (Parallel theme): For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Psalms 71:18 (Parallel theme): Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.

Psalms 90:10 (Parallel theme): The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Psalms 73:26 (Parallel theme): My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

2 Timothy 4:18 (Parallel theme): And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Samuel 19:35 (Parallel theme): I am this day fourscore years old: and can I discern between good and evil? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king?

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