

Psalm 73:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

Analysis

Despite foolishness, 'Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.' The 'nevertheless' is stunning—despite the psalmist's beast-like thinking, God maintained relationship. 'Continually' emphasizes God's faithfulness versus human fickleness. 'Thou hast holden' shows divine initiative preserving the relationship. God's grip on His people is stronger than their grip on Him. This anticipates Jesus's promise that none can pluck believers from His hand (John 10:28-29).

Historical Context

Israel's history exemplified this pattern: repeated apostasy met with persistent divine faithfulness. God's covenant commitment exceeded Israel's covenant breaking. This formed the foundation for understanding grace.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How has God held you 'by the right hand' even when you wandered in foolishness?
2. What does it mean that you're 'continually with' God despite your fickleness?
3. How does God's initiating and preserving grace provide assurance in spiritual struggles?

Interlinear Text

אַנְךָ תִּמְצֵא יְהִי עָתָה אַתָּה בְּצָדְקָתִיךְ
H589 Nevertheless I am continually H8548 H5973 with thee thou hast holden H270 H3027 hand
אַתָּה בְּצָדְקָתִיךְ
me by my right
H3225

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 41:13 (Parallel theme): For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

Psalms 63:8 (Parallel theme): My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.

Matthew 28:20 (Parallel theme): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Hebrews 13:5 (Parallel theme): Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Psalms 16:8 (Parallel theme): I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Psalms 23:4 (Parallel theme): Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalms 37:24 (Parallel theme): Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

Matthew 1:23 (Parallel theme): Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Isaiah 42:1 (Parallel theme): Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Isaiah 41:10 (Parallel theme): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.