

Psalm 74:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength: thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters.

Analysis

Yet confidence emerges: "For God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth" (Hebrew v-Elohim malki mi-qedem po-el y-shuot b-qerev ha-aretz). After lament (vv.1-12), the psalmist recalls theology. "My King" claims personal relationship. "Of old" recalls historical faithfulness. "Working salvation" (Hebrew yeshuah, same root as Jesus/Yeshua) emphasizes God's saving nature. "In the midst of the earth" indicates public, visible deliverance. The verse pivots from complaint to confidence through remembering God's character.

Historical Context

This verse begins the psalm's recitation of God's past mighty acts (vv.13-17), especially creation and Exodus. When present circumstances contradict faith, believers anchor in historical revelation. The Exodus paradigm shapes Israel's expectations—God who delivered from Egypt can deliver now. For Christians, the cross-resurrection becomes the definitive saving act demonstrating God's character.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does deliberately recalling God's past "salvation" help you trust Him in present crises?
2. What does it mean that God is "your King"—not an abstract deity but personal ruler?
3. How does Christ's death and resurrection become the ultimate "salvation in the midst of the earth" that grounds all confidence?

Interlinear Text

אָתָּה	פָּגַן	רִתְּךָ	בְּעִזָּתֶךָ	יְהִי	שָׁבֵךְ	רִתְּךָ	כָּאֵשׁ	וְאֶשְׁתָּוֹתְךָ
H859	Thou didst divide	H6565	by thy strength	H5797	H3220	thou brakest	H7665	the heads
עַל	תְּמִימָה	עַל	בְּיַם					
of the dragons	H5921	in the waters	H4325					
H8577								

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 14:21 (Parallel theme): And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

Psalms 78:13 (Parallel theme): He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap.

Ezekiel 29:3 (Parallel theme): Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.