

Psalms 74:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The day is thine, the night also is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun.

Analysis

The psalm appeals to God's sovereignty over creation: "The day is thine, the night also is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun" (Hebrew l-kha yom af-l-kha layelah atah hakhino ma-or vashemesh). The repetition "thine...thine" emphasizes God's absolute ownership of time and cosmic order. "Prepared" (Hebrew kun) indicates purposeful establishment. The verse argues from creation to providence: if God sovereignly established the cosmos, He can surely deliver His people. This grounds petition in theology—God's creative power guarantees His redemptive ability.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern paganism assigned different deities to day and night, sun and moon. This verse proclaims the one God rules all creation without rival. The argument from creation to redemption appears throughout Scripture: God who spoke worlds into existence can certainly save (Isaiah 40:26-31, Romans 4:17). The verse echoes Genesis 1:14-18 where God appointed celestial lights.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty over creation provide confidence in His ability to handle your circumstances?
2. In what ways does modern culture subtly divide reality into sacred and secular, limiting God's rule to "religious" spheres?
3. How does Christ as Creator (Colossians 1:16) and Redeemer unite these roles perfectly?

Interlinear Text

לְ	יּוֹם	אֶרֶץ	לְ	לַיְלָה	אֶתְּ הַ
H0	The day	H637	H0	is thine the night	H859
	H3117			H3915	

הֵאֱכִינָהּ	מָאֹרֹת	וְשֶׁשֶׁשׁ:
also is thine thou hast prepared	the light	and the sun
H3559	H3974	H8121

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 104:19 (Parallel theme): He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.

Matthew 5:45 (Parallel theme): That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.