

Psalms 74:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Remember thy congregation, which thou hast purchased of old; the rod of thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed; this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt.

Analysis

The psalmist appeals to three covenant realities: God's congregation which He "purchased" (Hebrew *qanah*, the same verb used of God's creative ownership in Genesis 14:19), emphasizing divine initiative in redemption; the "rod of thine inheritance" (Hebrew *shebet nachalatecha*), using the tribal language that makes Israel God's personal possession; and Mount Zion where God chose to dwell, establishing His earthly throne. The verb "remember" (Hebrew *zakar*) is covenantal language, calling God to act consistently with His promises. The three verbs—purchased, redeemed, dwelt—trace salvation history from Egypt through the wilderness to the temple, forming the basis for confident appeal in crisis.

Historical Context

This psalm likely dates to either the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem (586 BC) or possibly the desecration under Antiochus IV Epiphanes (167 BC). Asaph's choir traditionally maintained temple worship, making this lament over the ruined sanctuary particularly poignant. The covenant language reflects Deuteronomic theology: God chose Israel, redeemed them from Egypt, and established His dwelling among them.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that God "purchased" His people shape your view of your value and security in Christ?
2. When facing crisis, how can you anchor your prayers in God's past faithfulness and covenant promises?
3. What does it mean that God chose to "dwell" among His people, and how is this fulfilled in Christ and the church?

Interlinear Text

זָכוֹר	עֲדֻתְךָ	לָךְ נָיִתָּה	לְיָדָם	
Remember	thy congregation	which thou hast purchased	of old	
H2142	H5712	H7069	H6924	
בְּאֵלֶיךָ	שֵׁבֶט	נַחֲלֶיךָ	הַר	יְהוּדָה
which thou hast redeemed	the rod	of thine inheritance	this mount	Zion
H1350	H7626	H5159	H2022	H2088
שָׁכַנְתָּ	בָּהּ:			
wherein thou hast dwelt	H0			
H7931				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 10:16 (Parallel theme): The portion of Jacob is not like them: for he is the former of all things; and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: The LORD of hosts is his name.

Deuteronomy 32:9 (Parallel theme): For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.

Exodus 15:16 (Parallel theme): Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased.

Psalms 135:4 (Parallel theme): For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure.

Exodus 15:13 (Redemption): Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.

Deuteronomy 4:20 (Parallel theme): But the LORD hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day.

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