

Psalms 77:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more?

Analysis

Will the Lord cast off for ever? (הֲלִעֲזֹבֵנִי לְעֹלָמִים זָנַח). Zanach (זָנַח) means to reject, spurn, or cast away permanently. Le'olamim (לְעֹלָמִים) emphasizes perpetual abandonment. This begins a series of seven anguished questions (vv.7-9) that expose faith's darkest doubts. The questions are not rhetorical exercises but genuine wrestling with apparent divine abandonment.

Will he be favourable no more? (וְלֹא־יִסְדֵּיף לְרַצּוֹת עוֹד). Ratsah (רָצָה) means to be pleased with, to show favor, to accept. The psalmist fears God's permanent withdrawal of covenant affection. These questions echo Israel's recurring complaint: "Has God forgotten?" (Psalms 10:11, 13:1). They also anticipate Christ's desolate cry: "My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Psalm 22:1, Matthew 27:46). Scripture validates asking hard questions in faith's crucible.

Historical Context

The fear of divine rejection haunted Israel's consciousness, especially during exile. Lamentations 3:31-32 answers: "The Lord will not cast off for ever: but though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion." God's covenant promises (Genesis 17:7, 2 Samuel 7:14-16) guaranteed He would not utterly forsake His people, yet circumstances often contradicted this assurance. The tension between promise and experience generates these anguished questions.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish between expressing honest doubt to God and abandoning faith in God?
2. What biblical promises directly address the fear of permanent divine rejection?
3. How does Christ's experience of forsakenness on the cross address your own sense of abandonment?

Interlinear Text

וְעוֹלָמִים	יִזְנֶה חַן	אֲדָנִי י	וְלֹא	יִסְ יְיָ	לִרְצֹת	עוֹד:
for ever	cast off	Will the Lord	H3808	and will	he be favourable	H5750
H5769	H2186	H136		H3254	H7521	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 85:1 (References Lord): LORD, thou hast been favourable unto thy land: thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob.

Psalms 85:5 (Parallel theme): Wilt thou be angry with us for ever? wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations?

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

Psalms 89:46 (References Lord): How long, LORD? wilt thou hide thyself for ever? shall thy wrath burn like fire?

Psalms 89:38 (Parallel theme): But thou hast cast off and abhorred, thou hast been wroth with thine anointed.

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