

Psalm 84:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Analysis

For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. This verse provides theological foundation for the psalm's confident trust, listing four aspects of God's character and provision. First, "the LORD God is a sun" (Yahweh Elohim shemesh, שֶׁמֶשׁ יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים) presents God as source of light, warmth, and life. The sun was universally recognized as essential for existence—without it, plants die, cold dominates, darkness rules. Similarly, God illuminates truth, warms hearts with love, and sustains spiritual life.

Second, "and shield" (umagen, עַמְגָן) presents God as protector in battle. A shield deflects enemy attacks, protecting vulnerable soldiers. This military imagery appears throughout Psalms (3:3, 18:2, 28:7, 33:20, 115:9-11). While "sun" emphasizes God's generosity in giving life, "shield" emphasizes His protection from threats. Together they present comprehensive care—provision and protection, blessing and defense, nourishment and safety.

Third, "the LORD will give grace and glory" (chen ve-khavod yiten Yahweh, חֵן וְכָבוֹד יִתְعַנֵּן). Chen (חֵן) means "grace, favor, kindness"—unmerited, freely given divine blessing. Kavod (כָּבוֹד) means "glory, honor, weight"—suggesting both God's glory conferred on believers and the honor/dignity He grants His people. The imperfect verb yiten (יִתְعַנֵּן, "will give") indicates future certainty: God WILL give these gifts. His generosity is guaranteed, not speculative.

Fourth, "no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (לו-ימנה טוב לא-הולכים בְּתָמִים). This is sweeping promise: God withholds NOTHING good from those whose walk is tamim (תָּמִים, "upright, blameless, with integrity"). This doesn't promise worldly success but affirms that whatever God withholds wasn't truly "good" for us. His sovereign withholding is protective love, not miserly reluctance.

Historical Context

Divine Attributes and Covenant Faithfulness

The imagery of God as "sun" was particularly significant given ancient Near Eastern sun worship. Egyptians worshiped Ra, the sun god. Canaanites venerated Shamash. Yet Psalm 84 declares that Yahweh—not a created celestial object—is the true source of light and life. God created the sun (Genesis 1:16) and uses it to reveal His glory (Psalm 19:1-6), but He Himself is the ultimate light. Isaiah prophesied that in the new creation, "the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light" (Isaiah 60:19), and Revelation declares that New Jerusalem needs no sun because "the Lamb is the light thereof" (Revelation 21:23).

The promise "no good thing will he withhold" must be understood within covenant relationship. It doesn't guarantee material prosperity regardless of behavior but promises God's faithful provision for those who walk uprightly. Throughout Scripture, walking with integrity characterizes those who genuinely know God (Genesis 17:1, Psalm 15:2, Proverbs 10:9, Micah 6:8). This isn't works-righteousness but recognition that faith produces obedience. Those who truly trust God demonstrate it by walking in His ways.

Paul quotes this principle in Romans 8:32: "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" If God gave His greatest treasure (Christ), He won't withhold lesser gifts. Yet "all things" means everything needed for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3), not every desired luxury. God's "no good thing withheld" operates according to His perfect wisdom, not our finite preferences. What He gives is always good; what He

withholds would harm us even when we think we want it.

The early church experienced this paradox. While facing persecution, poverty, and martyrdom, they testified that God withheld no good thing. Paul, imprisoned and facing execution, wrote: "I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord" (Philippians 3:8). The supreme "good thing" is knowing Christ; everything else is relatively worthless. When God gives Himself (sun), protects His people (shield), confers grace and glory, He has given everything truly valuable.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God function as both "sun" (giving life) and "shield" (protecting from danger) in believers' experience?
2. What does it mean that God "will give grace and glory," and how are these gifts related to each other?
3. How should the promise "no good thing will he withhold" be understood when believers experience hardship, loss, or unanswered prayer?
4. What does it mean to "walk uprightly" (with integrity), and how is this related to receiving God's promised blessings?
5. How does knowing Christ as the ultimate "good thing" help us trust God's wisdom when He withholds things we think we want or need?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵשׁ כָּאֵשׁ	וְמַגֵּן	לְהָיוֹת הָיָם	אֱלֹהִים	חִכּוֹד	כְּבוֹד	יְתִת							
H3588	is a sun	H4043	and shield	H3068	For the LORD	H430	God	H2580	grace	H3519	and glory	H5414	will give
H8121		H4043		H3068		H430		H2580		H3519		H5414	
לֹא יְמִנָּع	וְבָטָה	לְהַלֵּךְ יְמִינָם	וְבָטָה	לְהַלֵּךְ יְמִינָם	וְבָטָה	לְהַלֵּךְ יְמִינָם							
For the LORD	H3808	thing will he withhold	H4513	no good	from them that walk	H2896		H1980					
H3068				H4513		H2896		H1980					
בָּתְחִים													
uprightly													
H8549													

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 2:7 (Parallel theme): He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

Matthew 6:33 (References God): But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Philippians 4:19 (Glory): But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Psalms 85:12 (Good): Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase.

Proverbs 10:9 (Parallel theme): He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.

John 8:12 (Parallel theme): Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Revelation 21:23 (Glory): And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Psalms 3:3 (Glory): But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

Genesis 15:1 (References Lord): After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

Malachi 4:2 (Parallel theme): But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

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