

Psalms 89:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him.

Analysis

With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him. God promises perpetual support through two synonymous parallelisms: **my hand shall be established** and **mine arm also shall strengthen him**. The verb "established" (tikkôn, תִּכּוֹן from kûn) means to be firm, steadfast, prepared, ready—God's hand will remain constantly with David. The "hand" (yād, יָד) represents God's power and active presence in history, the same hand that delivered Israel from Egypt (Exodus 13:3).

Mine arm also shall strengthen him uses zərô'î ta'amməšennû (זְרוֹאִי תַאמְשֶׁנּוּ). The "arm" (zərôa', זְרוֹאִי) symbolizes divine might and deliverance, frequently appearing in contexts of God's mighty acts (Deuteronomy 4:34, Isaiah 53:1). The verb "strengthen" (āmaš, אָמַשׁ) means to make strong, courageous, firm—the same command given to Joshua (Joshua 1:6-9). This isn't passive protection but active empowerment for the task ahead.

This verse guarantees not merely God's approval but His active partnership in David's reign. God's hand and arm—anthropomorphisms expressing His omnipotence—would remain perpetually with David's line. Fulfilled supremely in Christ, of whom Isaiah prophesied, "the arm of the LORD" revealed (Isaiah 53:1), resurrection power demonstrates God's hand and arm establishing Jesus's eternal kingship (Ephesians 1:19-20).

Historical Context

Throughout David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE), this promise proved true through military victories over Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, and Edomites (2 Samuel 8). God's 'hand' gave David rest from enemies on every side (2 Samuel 7:1). Yet the promise extends beyond David to his descendants and finds ultimate fulfillment in Christ, whom God raised from death by His mighty power, seating Him at His right hand (Ephesians 1:20).

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What is the significance of God promising both His 'hand' and His 'arm'—are these different aspects of divine support?
2. How does God's promise to strengthen David with His arm encourage believers facing spiritual warfare?
3. In what ways did Christ's resurrection demonstrate God's hand being 'established' with Him and His arm strengthening Him?

Interlinear Text

אִשָּׁר	יְדִי	תִּכּוֹן	עַמִּי	אֶף	זְרוֹעִי
H834			H5973	H637	
	With whom my hand	shall be established			mine arm
	H3027	H3559			H2220
תִּגְמָצְנוּ:					
also shall strengthen					
H553					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 42:1 (Parallel theme): Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Isaiah 41:10 (Parallel theme): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Psalms 89:13 (Parallel theme): Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand.

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