

Psalms 89:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But my faithfulness and my mercy shall be with him: and in my name shall his horn be exalted.

Analysis

But my faithfulness and my mercy shall be with him: and in my name shall his horn be exalted. After promising military victory, God emphasizes the foundation of David's success: divine hesed and covenant faithfulness. **My faithfulness** (wě-'ēmûnâṭî, אֱמֻנָתִי from 'ēmet) means reliability, steadfastness, truth—God's unchanging commitment to His covenant promises. **My mercy** (ḥasdî, חַסְדִּי) is hesed (חֶסֶד), that rich Hebrew term for covenant loyalty, steadfast love, faithful kindness that binds God to His people beyond their deserving.

Shall be with him ('im-mô, עִמּוֹ)—God's abiding presence is the source of all blessing. **And in my name shall his horn be exalted** shifts from God's character to David's resulting glory. The "horn" (qarnô, קַרְנוֹ) symbolizes strength, dignity, and power (as in horns of mighty animals). To have one's horn exalted means increased power and honor. Critically, exaltation comes **in my name** (ûḇ-šēmî, וּבְשֵׁמִי)—through God's reputation and authority, not David's prowess.

This verse beautifully balances divine character (faithfulness, mercy) with resulting human honor (exalted horn). David's strength derives from God's hesed. The supreme example is Christ, whom God exalted to the highest place and gave the name above every name (Philippians 2:9-11) because of His faithful obedience unto death.

Historical Context

Throughout David's reign, God's faithfulness and mercy were evident despite David's sin with Bathsheba and failure with Absalom. God's covenant love (*hesed*) remained steadfast. David's horn was indeed exalted—he became the standard by which all subsequent kings were measured (1 Kings 15:3-5, 2 Kings 18:3). Yet the Babylonian exile seemed to lower Israel's horn. Only in Christ is the horn permanently exalted, as Zechariah prophesied: 'He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David' (Luke 1:69).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the pairing of God's 'faithfulness' and 'mercy' assure believers that His covenant promises will never fail?
2. What does it mean that David's horn is exalted 'in God's name' rather than his own—how does this apply to Christian ministry and service?
3. How does Christ's exaltation to God's right hand demonstrate the fulfillment of God's faithfulness and mercy to David's line?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵמוּנָתִי	וְחַסְדִּי	עִמּוֹ	וּבִשְׁמִי
But my faithfulness	and my mercy	H5973	shall be with him and in my name
H530	H2617		H8034
וְיִתְּרוֹ	יִתְּרוֹ		
be exalted	shall his horn		
H7311	H7161		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 20:5 (Parallel theme): We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: the LORD fulfil all thy petitions.

Psalms 89:33 (Faith): Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.

Psalms 91:14 (Parallel theme): Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

Psalms 20:1 (Parallel theme): The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee;

Psalms 89:28 (Grace): My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him.

John 17:11 (Parallel theme): And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

John 17:6 (Parallel theme): I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

John 1:17 (Grace): For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:20 (Parallel theme): For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

1 Samuel 2:1 (Parallel theme): And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.

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