

# Psalm 89:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.

## Analysis

**Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.** The crucial turning point: after detailing discipline for covenant violation (vv. 30-32), God declares that punishment will not mean abandonment. **Nevertheless** (וְהַסְדֵּי, וְסִדְךִּי prefaced by the adversative waw) signals dramatic reversal. Despite deserved judgment, **my lovingkindness** (הַסְדֵּי, סִדְךִּי)—that covenantal hesed (חֵדֶד), loyal love—**will I not utterly take from him** (לֹא־עָמַד מֵעַמְּדָה, לֹא־אָפִיר מִעַמְּדָה). The verb pārar (פָּרַר) means to break, annul, make void, frustrate.

**Nor suffer my faithfulness to fail** uses וְלֹא־אָשַׁקר (וְלֹא־אָשְׁקָר). The verb šāqar (שָׁקַר) means to deal falsely, act treacherously, lie. God's 'emûnâh (אֶמְנָה, "faithfulness") cannot fail—He cannot deny His own character or break His word. This echoes Numbers 23:19: "God is not a man, that He should lie...has He said, and will He not do it?"

This verse is the theological hinge of the Davidic covenant. Despite Israel's unfaithfulness, God's hesed remains; despite human failure, divine 'emûnâh stands firm. This is not because Israel deserves it but because of God's character and covenant oath. Paul references this in Romans 3:3-4: "What if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not!" God's covenant promise to David found ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ, the faithful Son who never broke covenant, guaranteeing eternal hesed for all who trust in Him.

## Historical Context

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When Jerusalem fell in 586 BCE and the Davidic monarchy ended, it appeared God had broken His covenant. Psalm 89:38-51 expresses this anguish. Yet God's lovingkindness was not utterly removed—He preserved a remnant, brought them back from exile, maintained David's genealogical line through centuries of foreign rule, and ultimately sent Jesus, the Son of David, through whom the covenant promises were eternally secured. God's faithfulness did not fail, though tested through centuries of apparent silence.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does the word 'nevertheless' in this verse reveal the heart of the gospel—that God's love is not contingent on human faithfulness?
2. What does it mean that God will not 'suffer His faithfulness to fail'—how is God's character the ultimate guarantee of His covenant promises?
3. How does Jesus Christ embody both the judgment for covenant-breaking (bearing the rod and stripes) and the preservation of God's hesed and faithfulness?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵין מַעֲמֵד	לֹא	אֵג יְרֵא	וְאֵלֹא מַעֲמֵד
Nevertheless my lovingkindness		will I not utterly take	
H2617	H3808	H6331	H5973 H3808

  

אֵשֶׁת שְׁקָדָם	בְּאַמְוֹנָתִי
to fail	from him nor suffer my faithfulness

H8266 H530

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 7:15** (Parallel theme): But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

**Hebrews 6:18** (Parallel theme): That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

**1 Samuel 15:29** (Parallel theme): And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.

**1 Kings 11:36** (Parallel theme): And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.

**1 Kings 11:32** (Parallel theme): (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:)

**1 Kings 11:13** (Parallel theme): Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

**2 Samuel 7:13** (Parallel theme): He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever.