

Psalms 89:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast made his glory to cease, and cast his throne down to the ground.

Analysis

Thou hast made his glory to cease (הִשְׁבַּטָּה מִתְהִירוֹ hishbatta mitteraho)—shabbat means to stop, bring to an end, make cease (the root of "Sabbath"). Tahor (brightness, splendor, purity) refers to royal glory and magnificence. **And cast his throne down to the ground** (וְקָסְאוֹ לָאֶרֶץ מִגְּדָתָה vekhis'o la-aretz miggartah)—the throne (kisse), symbol of authority and dynasty, is violently hurled down (magar, cast, overthrow).

The irony is devastating: God promised David, "Thy throne shall be established for ever" (2 Samuel 7:16). Now the throne lies in the dust. Yet this apparent contradiction conceals deeper truth. The earthly Davidic throne had to fall because it was always a shadow pointing to Christ's eternal throne (Luke 1:32-33: "The Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever"). Human glory must cease so divine glory can be revealed. Christ's path to His throne required the cross's shame (Hebrews 12:2). The glory that ceased was temporary; the glory revealed in resurrection is eternal.

Historical Context

Zedekiah's capture (2 Kings 25:1-7) marked the Davidic throne's fall. No Davidic king ruled Jerusalem from 586 BC to Christ's birth—a gap of nearly six centuries. The post-exilic Zerubbabel (a Davidic descendant) never became king. Only Christ, born in David's line, fulfilled the promise: His kingdom has no end. The throne

"cast to the ground" became the cross, which paradoxically is Christ's throne (John 12:32-33).

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What "glories" in your life has God caused to cease? Can you see how their ending might reveal deeper, eternal glory?
2. How does the cross as Christ's throne redefine what "glory" means (compare worldly splendor vs. cruciform glory)?
3. How does Luke 1:32-33 answer the charge that God failed to establish David's throne forever?

Interlinear Text

הָשָׁבָה	מָהָרָא	כִּסֵּאֵו	לָאֵרֶץ	מִגִּרְתָּהּ:
to cease	Thou hast made his glory	his throne	to the ground	and cast
H7673	H2892	H3678	H776	H4048

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