

Psalm 9:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right.

Analysis

God's judicial role is central: He has 'maintained' (Hebrew 'asah' - made, executed) David's right and cause. The imagery of God seated on His throne judging righteously portrays the cosmic courtroom. 'Judging right' (Hebrew 'mishpat tsedeq') combines justice and righteousness. This teaches that all earthly justice derives from God's throne room. When human courts fail, God's court never does. This assures believers that their ultimate vindication comes not from human systems but from the divine Judge.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kings functioned as supreme judges, seated on thrones to hear cases. David transfers this imagery to God as cosmic king-judge. Israel's experience of oppression by unjust earthly judges made them long for God's perfect justice. This theme runs through prophets (Isaiah 9:7) and finds ultimate fulfillment when Christ judges the world in righteousness.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. When earthly justice fails, do you appeal confidently to God as righteous judge?
2. How should the reality of God's throne of judgment affect how you pursue justice now?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	שִׁיטָה	מִשְׁפָט	דִּין	בָּתָה	כִּסְאָה
H3588	For thou hast maintained	my right	and my cause	thou satest	in the throne
H6213		H4941	H1779	H3427	H3678

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 140:12 (Parallel theme): I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor.

1 Peter 2:23 (Parallel theme): Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

Isaiah 11:4 (Parallel theme): But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

Psalms 47:8 (Parallel theme): God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.

Psalms 89:14 (Parallel theme): Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

Psalms 16:5 (Parallel theme): The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.

Psalms 98:9 (Parallel theme): Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

Psalms 96:13 (Parallel theme): Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

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