

1 Chronicles 16:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

Analysis

He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth—From David's psalm celebrating the ark's arrival, this verse asserts Yahweh's universal sovereignty. The pronoun Hu ('He') stands emphatic: 'HE (and no other) is Yahweh our God.' Yet His mishpatim ('judgments/ordinances') extend beyond Israel to kol-ha'arets ('all the earth').

This tension—particular covenant relationship with universal authority—defines biblical theology. Yahweh is Israel's God (covenant), yet His righteous standards govern all nations (creation). This grounds both Old Testament ethics and New Testament mission: God's judgments apply universally, so gospel proclamation must be universal (Matt 28:19).

Historical Context

This psalm (also Psalm 105:7) articulates Israel's monotheistic conviction that Yahweh alone is God, and His moral law governs all peoples. Post-exilic Israel needed this affirmation when surrounded by polytheistic empires.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's universal authority challenge cultural relativism and pluralistic tolerance?
2. What responsibility accompanies the privilege of knowing the God whose judgments govern all nations?

Interlinear Text

מְשֻׁפְטֵינוּ: בָּאָזֶן בְּכָל אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהִי הָאָזֶן
H1931 He is the LORD our God H3605 are in all the earth H776 his judgments
H3068 H430 H3605 H4941

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