

2 Chronicles 16:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

Analysis

The prophet Hanani's declaration 'For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him' reveals God's active, searching sovereignty. The phrase 'eyes run to and fro' anthropomorphically depicts God's comprehensive knowledge and providential care. He seeks those with 'perfect hearts' (lev shalem - undivided loyalty) to show Himself strong (chazaq - strengthen/support) on their behalf. This isn't works-righteousness but describes the object of God's strengthening grace - the wholehearted. Asa's failure to rely on God but on Syria demonstrates imperfect heart. This principle anticipates Christ who strengthens those who trust Him alone.

Historical Context

Hanani rebuked Asa (c. 885 BCE) for allying with Syria against Israel instead of trusting God. Despite earlier faithfulness, Asa's later compromise demonstrated that past victories don't guarantee future faithfulness - each generation and situation requires fresh trust.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

John 15:13 – Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. In what areas are you relying on human alliances or resources rather than waiting for God to show Himself strong?
2. What does having a 'perfect heart' toward God look like in your specific circumstances and relationships?

Interlinear Text

בְּאָרֶץ כָּל מִשְׁׁבַּט וְתַּעֲנֵן יְהִי הָאָמֵן הָאָמֵן כִּי H3588 of the LORD For the eyes run to and fro H3605 throughout the whole earth H3068 H5869 H7751 H776

ל	הַתִּזְקַר	עם	לְבָב	מִ	שָׁלֵם	אֵל	וְ
to shew himself strong	H5973	in the behalf of them whose heart	H2824		is perfect	H413	

תָּמָךְ לְתַ	עַל	צִ אֶת	כִּי
toward him Herein thou hast done foolishly	H5921	H2063	H3588

מִעְלָה	וְשָׁ	עַמְּךָ	מִלְּחָמֹת
therefore from henceforth	thou shalt have	H5973	wars

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 3:12 (References Lord): For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

Proverbs 15:3 (References Lord): The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Jeremiah 16:17 (Parallel theme): For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes.

Proverbs 5:21 (References Lord): For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.

Psalms 34:15 (References Lord): The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

Job 34:21 (Parallel theme): For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings.

Hebrews 4:13 (Parallel theme): Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Zechariah 4:10 (References Lord): For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

Jeremiah 32:19 (Parallel theme): Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings:

2 Chronicles 6:20 (Parallel theme): That thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night, upon the place whereof thou hast said that thou wouldest put thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant prayeth toward this place.