

2 Chronicles 19:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

Analysis

Jehoshaphat continues: 'Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.' The 'fear of the LORD' (yirat YHWH) - reverent awe - should govern judges' decisions. Three divine attributes ground this: no iniquity (God is perfectly just), no partiality (respect of persons), no bribery (taking gifts). These negatives describe what judges must avoid because they represent a God who cannot do these things. This standard, impossible for fallen humans to perfectly meet, points to Christ the righteous judge and calls believers to imitate God's impartial justice.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern justice frequently involved bribery and favoritism, making Jehoshaphat's reforms (based on Deuteronomy 16:18-20) countercultural. Establishing God's character as the standard for human justice created a prophetic critique of corrupt systems.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does 'fear of the LORD' - awareness of His perfect justice - affect your treatment of others?
2. Where might you be showing partiality or accepting 'gifts' (advantages) that compromise integrity?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה וְעַתָּה הַיְלֹדֶת

H6258

H1961

Wherefore now let the fear

H6343

יְהֹוָה הַ

H3068

עַלְיכֶם

H5921

שְׁמַר וְ

be upon you take heed

H8104

וְעַש וְ

and do

H6213

פְּנֵי עַם אֶל

H3588

פְּנֵי עַם אֶל

H369

יְהֹוָה הַ

H5973

וְעַלְיכֶם

H3068

אֱלֹהִים יְהֹוָה

of the LORD

H430

עַלְיכֶם הַ

it for there is no iniquity

H5766

וְעַמְש אֶל

nor respect

H4856

פְּנֵי יִם

of persons

H6440

וְעַמְקֵח

nor taking

H4727

שְׁפָדָה

of gifts

H7810

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 18:25 (Parallel theme): That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Deuteronomy 32:4 (Sin): He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

Romans 2:11 (References God): For there is no respect of persons with God.

Romans 9:14 (References God): What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.

Acts 10:34 (References God): Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Colossians 3:25 (Parallel theme): But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

Job 34:19 (Parallel theme): How much less to him that accepteth not the persons of princes, nor regardeth the rich more than the poor? for they all are the work of his hands.

Exodus 23:8 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous.

Isaiah 33:15 (Parallel theme): He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;

Ephesians 6:9 (Parallel theme): And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.