

Isaiah 45:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

Analysis

God declares: 'I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth.' Unlike pagan mystery religions with hidden revelations, God speaks openly. He doesn't say to Jacob 'Seek ye me in vain' ('tohu' - chaos/emptiness). His word is 'righteousness' (tsedeq) and He speaks 'things that are right' (meysharim - uprightness).

Historical Context

Mystery religions and occult practices were common in Babylon. In contrast, God's revelation through prophets was public, recorded, and verifiable - not secret gnosis for initiates.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's public revelation contrast with secretive or esoteric spirituality?

2. What confidence comes from knowing that seeking God is never 'in vain'?

Interlinear Text

ל א	בִּסְתֵּר	דִּבַּר	בְּמָקוֹם	אֶרֶץ	חֹשֶׁךְ	ל א
H3808	in secret	I have not spoken	place	of the earth	in a dark	H3808
	H5643	H1696	H4725	H776	H2822	
אָמַרְתִּי	לֹא	יַעֲקֹב	תָּהוּ	אֲנִי	בִקֵּשׁ	וְנִי
I said	not unto the seed	of Jacob	ye me in vain	Seek		H589
H559	H2233	H3290	H8414	H1245		
יְהוָה	דִּבַּר	צְדָקָה	מִגִּיד	מִשְׁפָּטִים		
I the LORD	I have not spoken	righteousness	I declare	things that are right		
H3068	H1696	H6664	H5046	H4339		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 48:16 (References Lord): Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.

Amos 5:4 (References Lord): For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live:

John 18:20 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing.

Proverbs 30:5 (Parallel theme): Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Proverbs 15:8 (References Lord): The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

Isaiah 8:19 (Parallel theme): And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

Isaiah 1:15 (Parallel theme): And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Psalms 69:13 (References Lord): But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.

Psalms 12:6 (References Lord): The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Psalms 24:6 (Parallel theme): This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.

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