

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 ח שָׁנָה אֶצְבָּע בָּמָקוֹם דִּבְרָה בַּשְׁתָּר לֹא
H3808 in secret H5643 I have not spoken H1696 place H4725 of the earth H776 in a dark H2822 H3808

אָמַר אֶתְּנָא בְּקָשׁ וְנִי תְּהִוֵּה יְעַקֹּב לֹא בְּעֵד
I said not unto the seed of Jacob ye me in vain Seek H589 H1245 H3290 H8414 H1696

מִשְׁרִים: מִתְּחִזְקָה יְהֹוָה דִּבְרָה מִתְּדָקֵן יְהֹוָה
things that are right I declare righteousness I have not spoken H4339 H5046 H6664 H1696 H3068

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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