

Job 34:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings.

Analysis

Elihu declares God's omniscience: "For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings." The noun *ayin* (עַיִן, "eyes") represents divine observation. The verb *ra'ah* (רָאָה, "seeth") means comprehensive seeing, not mere glancing. The phrase "all his goings" (*kol-tse'adav*, כָּל־צֵדָדָו) includes every step, every action. Elihu affirms divine omniscience as basis for perfect justice—God judges based on complete knowledge, not partial information. From a Reformed perspective, God's omniscience ensures no injustice goes unnoticed and no righteousness goes unrewarded, even if timing differs from our expectations. This truth comforts the suffering righteous (God knows the truth) while warning the prospering wicked (nothing is hidden). Hebrews 4:13 echoes this: "All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Yet Elihu misapplies this truth to Job—knowing God sees all should comfort Job, not imply hidden sin.

Historical Context

Divine omniscience appears throughout biblical and ancient Near Eastern thought. Egyptian *Ma'at* included divine surveillance, Mesopotamian gods recorded deeds. However, biblical omniscience is unique in its comprehensive, intimate nature—God knows not only actions but thoughts and motives (Psalm 139). This undergirds biblical ethics as answerable to One who sees completely.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's complete knowledge of our ways affect our understanding of divine justice?
2. What comfort does divine omniscience offer when we're misunderstood or falsely accused?
3. How should awareness of God seeing all our steps shape our daily conduct?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	עַיִן יְיָ	עַל	דְּרָכָי	אֵל יֵשׁ	וְכָל	צֵדֵק יוֹ
H3588	For his eyes	H5921	are upon the ways	of man	H3605	all his goings
	H5869		H1870	H376		H6806

וְיִרְאֶה:
and he seeth
H7200

Additional Cross-References

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

Job 31:4 (Parallel theme): Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?

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

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.

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:

Psalms 139:23 (Parallel theme): Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

Genesis 16:13 (Parallel theme): And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?

Jeremiah 17:10 (Parallel theme): I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

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

2 Chronicles 16:9 (Parallel theme): 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.