

Numbers 23:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them.

Analysis

Balaam declares 'He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them.' This doesn't claim Israel was sinless (Numbers abundantly documents their sins), but that God doesn't view His people through their sin but through His covenant grace. 'The shout of a king' refers to God's royal presence among them, prefiguring Immanuel (God with us).

Historical Context

This statement came during Israel's wilderness rebellion period, yet God declared He saw no iniquity in them. This anticipates Christ's work making believers righteous in God's sight (2 Corinthians 5:21), where God views Christians through Christ's perfection, not their failures.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God viewing you through Christ's righteousness rather than your sin provide confidence?
2. What does 'the shout of a king' among God's people teach about His committed presence?

Interlinear Text

כִּי לֹא בַּעֲוָת יְהוָה אֶלָּא בַּיּוֹם כִּי לֹא בַּיּוֹם כִּי
H3808 He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob neither hath he seen
H5027 H205 H3290 H3808 H7200

וְתַרְשֵׁע תְּעַמֵּד אֱלֹהִים בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל עַמּוֹ לְעַמּוֹ
perverseness in Israel the LORD his God is with him and the shout
H5999 H3478 H3068 H430 H5973 H8643

בָּרוּךְ מֶלֶךְ
of a king H0
H4428

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 23:4 (Parallel theme): Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Matthew 1:23 (References God): Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Jeremiah 50:20 (Sin): In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.

Isaiah 38:17 (Sin): Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.

Psalms 46:11 (References God): The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Isaiah 33:22 (Kingdom): For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.

Isaiah 1:18 (Sin): Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isaiah 8:10 (References God): Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us.

Isaiah 41:10 (References God): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Psalms 97:1 (Kingdom): The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.