

Proverbs 15:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Analysis

This verse declares divine omniscience: 'The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.' God's comprehensive knowledge extends everywhere without limitation. The metaphor of eyes (einei Yahweh) emphasizes active observation—God doesn't merely know abstractly but actively watches. 'In every place' excludes any hidden corner; 'beholding the evil and the good' emphasizes moral scrutiny. This doctrine provides both warning (sin cannot be hidden) and comfort (injustice will be judged). It grounds accountability in God's perfect knowledge and encourages righteous living even when no human sees (Psalm 139:7-12; Hebrews 4:13).

Historical Context

Ancient polytheism typically assigned deities to specific locations or domains—territorial or functional gods with limited jurisdiction. Yahweh's omnipresence distinguished Him radically from pagan deities. This proverb asserts His universal sovereignty and comprehensive knowledge. For post-exilic Jews living under foreign rule, it affirmed that Yahweh (not Persian or Greek deities) saw all and would ultimately judge justly.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does remembering that 'the eyes of the LORD are in every place' affect your behavior in private versus public?
2. How does divine omniscience provide comfort when you face injustice or persecution that no human witnesses?

Interlinear Text

וְתַחַדִּים: בְּעֵד יְמֵינֶךָ צְבָא וְתַחַדִּים: בְּכָל קָרְבָּן יְהִי הַעֲדָה
H3605 are in every place H4725 H5869 H3068 H6822 H7451 H2896

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 4:13 (Parallel theme): Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

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 23:24 (References Lord): Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (References Lord): 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.

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

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:

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

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