

Proverbs 2:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

Analysis

God's protective continuation: 'He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.' The double emphasis—'keepeth' and 'preserveth'—shows comprehensive divine care. 'Paths of judgment' represents righteous living; God guards the way of justice. 'His saints' (Hebrew: chasidim, loyal ones, covenant-keepers) identifies the objects of preservation. This teaches perseverance of the saints: God doesn't merely start His people on the path but keeps them in it. Divine preservation, not human determination, ensures believers reach glory.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern travel involved dangerous paths where bandits lurked and wild animals threatened. Path-keeping represented crucial protection for survival. The covenant concept of God as shepherd/guardian of His people's journey appears throughout Scripture. 'Saints' in Old Testament context referred to covenant faithful, not moral perfection. God's preservation of Israel through history demonstrated this keeping despite enemies and obstacles.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's keeping of paths demonstrate the doctrine of perseverance—divine preservation rather than human achievement?
2. What does God's preservation of 'his saints' teach us about security belonging to covenant relationship, not personal merit?

Interlinear Text

יִשְׁמְרֵנוּ:	וְדֶרֶךְ	מִשְׁפָּט	אֲחֵהּ	לִנְצֹר	
He keepeth	the paths	of judgment	the way	of his saints	and preserveth
H5341	H734	H4941	H1870	H2623	H8104

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 23:3 (Parallel theme): He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

1 Samuel 2:9 (Holy): He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

Psalms 145:20 (Parallel theme): The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.

Psalms 66:9 (Parallel theme): Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved.

Jude 1:24 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Proverbs 8:20 (Judgment): I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:

1 Peter 1:5 (Parallel theme): Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Psalms 37:28 (Judgment): For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

Psalms 1:6 (Parallel theme): For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Deuteronomy 33:3 (Holy): Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org