

Psalm 103:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.

Analysis

God will not 'always chide' (rib, meaning to contend or accuse) nor keep His anger forever. This doesn't mean God overlooks sin but that His discipline is temporary and purposeful. Anger isn't God's natural state toward His people; it's a response to covenant unfaithfulness. The Reformed understanding of God's wrath recognizes its reality but emphasizes its ultimate purpose in restoration. Christ bore God's eternal wrath for sin (Rom 3:25), ensuring believers experience only temporary, fatherly discipline (Heb 12:6).

Historical Context

Unlike pagan gods characterized by capricious anger requiring constant appeasement, Israel's God exercises controlled, purposeful anger toward sin while maintaining ultimate love for His people. His anger has definite limits.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does knowing God's anger is temporary and purposeful affect your response to His discipline?
2. What does Christ's bearing of God's wrath mean for your assurance of salvation?

Interlinear Text

אַל־לֹא־צָהַב־לְעֹלֶל־מִצְרָאָה:
H3808 He will not always chide H3808 his anger for ever neither will he keep
H5331 H7378 H5769 H5201

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 57:16 (Parallel theme): For I will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth: for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made.

Psalms 30:5 (Parallel theme): For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Jeremiah 3:5 (Parallel theme): Will he reserve his anger for ever? will he keep it to the end? Behold, thou hast spoken and done evil things as thou couldest.

Jeremiah 3:12 (Parallel theme): Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever.