

Psalms 119:104

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

Analysis

Through thy precepts I get understanding מִפְקָדֶיךָ אֶתְבָּנוּ (mippikkudekha etbonen)—Bin (understand, discern, consider) comes from pikkudim (precepts, statutes). This is epistemology: Scripture is the source of true knowledge. **Therefore I hate every false way** עַל־קָשְׁרָה שְׁנָאָתִי פָּלָאָנָה שְׁקָרָה (al-ken saneti kol-orach shaker)—Sane (hate) is strong language. Sheker (falsehood, deception, lie) encompasses all counterfeit paths.

Love and hate are covenantal opposites: loving God entails hating evil (Amos 5:15, Romans 12:9). Understanding breeds discernment, discernment breeds holy hatred. The Nun (י) section concludes by contrasting God's truth with every sheker—the world's wisdom, Satan's lies, flesh's deceptions. Proverbs 8:13 declares, "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil." This isn't personal vendetta but principled opposition—the same hatred Jesus showed cleansing the temple (John 2:14-17).

Historical Context

Israel was surrounded by false ways—Canaanite Baalism, Egyptian syncretism, Babylonian astrology, Greek philosophy. Deuteronomy 18:9-14 forbade pagan practices. The psalmist's hatred of falsehood reflects covenant loyalty in a pluralistic world—a challenge equally urgent for contemporary believers navigating secular ideologies.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Does your understanding of Scripture produce corresponding hatred of falsehood, or do you tolerate 'false ways' in your thinking and behavior?
2. What specific 'false ways' (cultural lies, personal rationalizations, spiritual deceptions) do you need to hate more resolutely?

Interlinear Text

מִפְקָדֶךָ יְבָרֹךְ	אֶתְבּוֹן	עַל	כִּי	שְׁנָא אֶתְנִי	כִּי	שְׁנָא אֶתְנִי	כִּי
Through thy precepts	I get understanding		H5921	H3651	therefore I hate		H3605
H6490	H995				H8130		
שְׁלָרָה: אֶתְחַדְּךָ							
way	every false						
H734	H8267						

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:128 (Parallel theme): Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.

Proverbs 8:13 (Parallel theme): The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Psalms 119:98 (Parallel theme): Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.

Proverbs 14:12 (Parallel theme): There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Psalms 119:100 (Parallel theme): I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

Psalms 101:3 (Parallel theme): I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

Psalms 97:10 (Parallel theme): Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Romans 12:9 (Parallel theme): Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

Matthew 7:13 (Parallel theme): Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

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