

Psalms 119:118

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes:
for their deceit is falsehood.

Analysis

Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes (סָלִיתָ כָּל־שׁוֹגִים מֵחֻקֶּיךָ, salita khol-shogim mechuqqekha)—the verb salah means to trample, tread down, reject with contempt. This is divine judicial action against apostates. Those who wander (shagah, go astray, err) from God's statutes face certain judgment. History confirms this: Israel's apostasy led to exile; Judas's betrayal to destruction.

For their deceit is falsehood (כִּי־שֶׁקֶר תַּרְמִיתָם, ki-sheqer tarmitam)—sheqer (deception, lie) and tarmit (deceit, treachery) are synonymous, emphasizing that those who abandon God's truth embrace lies. Their entire system is built on falsehood. This anticipates 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12: God sends strong delusion to those who reject truth. The verse warns that deviation from Scripture leads to a deception so complete that God Himself confirms the delusion through judgment. Truth and consequences are inseparable.

Historical Context

Israel's history demonstrated this principle repeatedly—apostasy brought defeat (Judges cycle), exile (722 BC, 586 BC), and destruction (70 AD). The psalmist observes God's historical pattern of treading down covenant-breakers, warning future generations.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's pattern of treading down those who err from His statutes shape your view of apostasy?
2. What forms of spiritual 'deceit' and 'falsehood' most threaten to lead you astray from Scripture?
3. In what ways do you see God's judgment on those who abandon His word in contemporary culture?

Interlinear Text

טָ לִיתָ	כָּל	שׁוֹגִים יֵם	מִחֻקֶּי יְיָ	כִּי	שֶׁ קָרָה
Thou hast trodden down	H3605	all them that err	from thy statutes	H3588	is falsehood
H5541		H7686	H2706		H8267
תַּרְמִיתָם:					
for their deceit					
H8649					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:10 (Parallel theme): With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

Psalms 119:21 (Parallel theme): Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments.

Psalms 119:29 (Parallel theme): Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously.

