

Psalms 119:129

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them.

Analysis

Thy testimonies are wonderful (פָּلֹאֹת עַלְוִתָּה, pla'ot edvoteika)—Pele means wonder, marvel, miracle—used of God's miraculous acts (Exod 15:11) and mysterious works (Isa 9:6, 'Wonderful Counselor'). God's edot (testimonies, covenant witnesses) are not mundane rules but supernatural revelations that inspire awe.

Therefore doth my soul keep them (עַלְקָן נְצָרָתָם נֶפֶשִׁי, al-ken netsaratam nafshi)—Wonder produces obedience. Natsar means to guard, watch over, treasure. The soul (nefesh, whole person) guards God's words as precious. This begins the Pe (פ) stanza (vv. 129-136).

Historical Context

The Pe stanza emphasizes God's Word as source of wonder, light, and understanding. In ancient Israel, God's self-revelation through Torah was unparalleled—surrounding nations had myths and superstitions, but Israel had the living God's own words (Deut 4:7-8).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. When was the last time you encountered Scripture with genuine wonder and awe rather than familiarity?
2. How does seeing God's testimonies as 'wonderful' (miraculous) change your approach to Bible reading?
3. Do you guard God's Word as carefully as you protect your most valuable possessions?

Interlinear Text

בָּשָׁרִים: נִצְחָה תִּמְכֵּר | יְהֻדָּה עַל פָּלָא וְתָהַנְּתֵן
are wonderful PE Thy testimonies H5921 H3651 keep therefore doth my soul
H6382 H5715 H5341 H5315

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 139:6 (Parallel theme): Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

Psalms 25:10 (Parallel theme): All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Psalms 119:18 (Parallel theme): Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

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