

Psalms 119:138

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful.

Analysis

Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded (edot, עֲדוּת)—God's testimonies are His covenant stipulations, the authoritative witness to His will. **Are righteous and very faithful** (tsedeq ve-emunah meod, צֶדֶק וְאֱמוּנָה מְעֹד)—The pairing of righteousness (tsedeq) and faithfulness (emunah) describes God's Word as both morally perfect and utterly reliable.

Scripture's dual character—righteous in content, faithful in execution—means it can be trusted completely. Jesus declared, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). The very (exceedingly) emphasizes the superlative nature of God's self-revelation through His commandments.

Historical Context

In ancient Near Eastern covenants, the 'testimonies' were the treaty stipulations inscribed on tablets. Israel's Torah functioned similarly—God's covenant faithfulness was encoded in His laws, which testified to His unchanging character and purposes.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. In what ways have you experienced God's Word as both 'righteous' (perfectly right) and 'faithful' (utterly reliable)?
2. How does the absolute trustworthiness of Scripture shape your response to cultural challenges to biblical authority?

Interlinear Text

כִּי יְצַוְךָ	כִּי יִצְדִּיקְךָ	עֲדוֹתֶיךָ יְיָ	וְאֱמוּנָה ה	מְאֹד:
that thou hast commanded	are righteous	Thy testimonies	faithful	and very
H6680	H6664	H5713	H530	H3966

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:144 (Righteousness): The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

Psalms 119:86 (Faith): All thy commandments are faithful: they persecute me wrongfully; help thou me.