Psalms 119:155

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> Salvation is far from the wicked: for they seek not thy statutes.

Analysis

Salvation is far from the wicked (רָחוֹק מֵרְשָׁעִים יְשׁוּעָה, rachok meresh'im yeshu'ah)—Not 'difficult' but positionally rachok ('far, remote, inaccessible'). The reason? **They seek not thy statutes** (כִּי חֻקֶּיךָ לֹא דָרָשׁוּ, ki chuqekha lo darashu). Darash means 'seek diligently, inquire, investigate.' The wicked's problem isn't moral failure per se but deliberate non-seeking of God's chuqqim (decrees, inscribed ordinances).

This anticipates John 5:39-40: the religious leaders searched (eraunate) Scriptures yet refused to come to Christ for life. Distance from the Word creates distance from yeshu'ah—salvation, deliverance, the very name Yeshua (Jesus).

Historical Context

The Hebrew yeshu'ah became the basis for the personal name Joshua/Jesus. The psalm's insistence that salvation requires seeking God's statutes counters both ancient paganism (which ignored Yahweh's law) and modern antinomianism (which divorces salvation from obedience). True faith seeks God through His self-revelation.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the connection between seeking God's statutes and finding salvation challenge 'easy-believism' without falling into works-righteousness?
2. What does it mean to 'seek' God's Word in a way that brings you near to salvation rather than just acquiring religious knowledge?
3. How does Jesus as Yeshu'ah (Salvation) embodied in flesh fulfill the psalmist's equation of Word-seeking and salvation-finding?

Interlinear Text

רָחֽוֹק	מֵרְשָׁעִ ים	יְשׁוּעָ ה	כִּי	חֻ קֶּיךָ	לֹ א	דָרָשֽׁוּ׃
is far	**from the wicked**	**Salvation**	H3588	**not thy statutes**	H3808	**for they seek**
H7350	H7563	H3444		H2706		H1875

Additional Cross-References

Job 5:4 (Parallel theme): His children are far from safety, and they are crushed in the gate, neither is there any to deliver them.