

Psalms 119:163

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love.

Analysis

I hate and abhor lying (שֶׁקֶר שָׂנְאֵתִי וְאֶתְעֵבָה, sheqer saneti va'ata'evah)—Two intensifying verbs: sane (hate) and ta'av (abhor, detest, loathe). Sheqer means 'lie, falsehood, deception, emptiness.' The double-verb construction emphasizes vehement rejection. Contrast: **but thy law do I love** (תּוֹרַתְךָ אֶהְבֵּתִי, toratekha ahavti). Love for Torah (ahavah) drives hatred of sheqer.

Jesus is 'the truth' (aletheia, John 14:6) and cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18). Satan is 'father of lies' (John 8:44). The psalm's either/or—love Torah or love sheqer—anticipates Christ's 'no man can serve two masters' (Matthew 6:24).

Historical Context

The ninth commandment prohibits false witness (Exodus 20:16), but the psalm expands this to an internal disposition. Proverbs repeatedly condemns sheqer (Proverbs 6:17, 12:22). In a world of competing truth-claims, loving Torah meant hating falsehood—particularly idolatry's lies about God's character.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does loving God's Law necessarily produce hatred for falsehood rather than mere disapproval?
2. What 'lies' (sheqer) do you need to cultivate holy hatred toward —culturally acceptable deceptions about identity, purpose, morality?
3. How does Jesus as 'the Truth' embodied fulfill and intensify the psalmist's hatred of lying and love of Torah?

Interlinear Text

שֶׁקֶר	שֶׁ יִאֲתִי	וְאֶתֶּי בָּהּ	תּוֹכְתָךְ	אֶהְבֶּתִּי:
lying	I hate	and abhor	but thy law	do I love
H8267	H8130	H8581	H8451	H157

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.