

Psalms 119:168

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies: for all my ways are before thee.

Analysis

I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies (שָׁמַרְתִּי פְקֻדֶיךָ וְעֲדֹתֶיךָ, shamarti fiqudekha ve'edotekha)—Shamar again, now with two objects: piqudim (precepts, mandates) and edot (testimonies, witnesses). Comprehensive obedience. The accountability clause: **for all my ways are before thee** (כִּי כָל־דַּרְכָּי נִגְדָה, ki kol-derakhai negdekha). Neged means 'in front of, before, in plain sight.' Every derekh (way, path, journey) lies open to divine scrutiny.

This anticipates Hebrews 4:13: 'All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.' The psalmist's obedience isn't performance but lived transparency before the all-seeing God.

Historical Context

The final verse of Shin (ש) emphasizes comprehensive faithfulness with the divine gaze as motivation. Unlike pagan religion (where gods could be deceived), Yahweh-worship requires integrity precisely because God sees all. Proverbs 5:21 echoes: 'The ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.'

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does living consciously 'before' (neged) God's gaze motivate obedience differently than fear of human opinion?
2. What 'ways' (derakhai) in your life do you try to hide from God's sight, and what would confession and transparency look like?
3. How does Jesus's perfect transparency before the Father (John 8:29—'I do always those things that please him') model the psalmist's accountability?

Interlinear Text

שָׁמַרְתִּי	פִּי קוֹדֵיךָ	וְעֵדוֹתַי	כָּל	דְּרָכַי	נִגְדָּר:
I have kept	thy precepts	and thy testimonies	H3588	H3605	for all my ways
H8104	H6490	H5713		H1870	H5048

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 5:21 (Parallel theme): For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.

Psalms 139:3 (Parallel theme): Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

Psalms 98:8 (Parallel theme): Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together

Job 34:21 (Parallel theme): For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings.

Jeremiah 23:24 (Parallel theme): Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.