

Psalm 119:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.

Analysis

"Remove from me the way of lying" petitions for deliverance from deceit. Derek sheker (way of lying/falsehood) encompasses both speaking lies and living falsely—hypocrisy, self-deception, preferring comfortable falsehood over difficult truth. The verb haser (remove) acknowledges that we cannot eliminate deceit by willpower alone—God must remove it. "Grant me thy law graciously" recognizes Torah as undeserved gift. Chaneni toratekha combines chanan (be gracious, show favor) with torah (instruction). God's law is not burden but grace—merciful provision of divine wisdom for living. This echoes Psalm 19:7-11, which describes Torah as perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, true—more desirable than gold. The contrast is sharp: remove falsehood, grant truth; take away what corrupts, give what sanctifies.

Historical Context

Israel's history included repeated lapses into covenant unfaithfulness—worshiping false gods while claiming YHWH loyalty, oppressing the poor while maintaining ritual observance, trusting Egypt or Assyria rather than God. The prophets condemned this "way of lying" (Isaiah 29:13, Jeremiah 7:4-11). Post-exile, the reformed community sought to walk in truth, yet Nehemiah 13 reveals continued struggles with covenant breaking. This prayer acknowledges ongoing vulnerability to self-deception and need for God's gracious instruction.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What forms of self-deception or spiritual hypocrisy might be "ways of lying" in your life?
2. How does viewing God's law as "gracious gift" rather than burdensome obligation transform obedience?
3. In what areas do you need God to "remove" false ways you cannot eliminate yourself?

Interlinear Text

וְבִין נִיּוֹתֶךָ תְּבִין נִיּוֹתֶךָ

the way of thy precepts Make me to understand so shall I talk

H1870

H6490

H995

H7878

בְּנִפְלָאוֹתֶיךָ:
of thy wondrous works

H6381

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 105:2 (Parallel theme): Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works.

Revelation 15:3 (Parallel theme): And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Acts 2:11 (Parallel theme): Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

Psalms 111:4 (Parallel theme): He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

Psalms 71:17 (Parallel theme): O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.

Psalms 78:4 (Parallel theme): We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

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