

Psalms 119:64

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.

Analysis

The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes. This verse (וִתֶּתַח תֵּת) shifts from human community to cosmic scope. The phrase **full of thy mercy** (מְלֵאָה, mal'ah)—the verb conveys saturation and abundance. **Mercy** (חֶסֶד, chesed) is covenant faithfulness, loyal love, steadfast kindness—God's character displayed throughout creation and history.

The petition **teach me thy statutes** (לְמַדְנִי חֻקֶּיךָ, lammedeni chuqqekha) recognizes that perceiving God's chesed throughout creation requires spiritual instruction. Creation reveals God's glory (Psalm 19:1), but Scripture interprets creation rightly. Paul similarly argues that creation displays God's 'eternal power and divine nature' (Romans 1:20), yet humans suppress this truth. Only God can open eyes to see His chesed saturating reality.

Historical Context

Israel's theology held creation and covenant together—the God who established cosmic order through His word also established moral order through Torah. Post-exilic Judaism developed the concept that Torah itself participated in creation (Proverbs 8:22-31). The early church affirmed that Christ the Logos both created all things (John 1:3) and revealed God's character definitively (John 1:14, Hebrews 1:2-3).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Where do you see evidence of God's covenant mercy (*chesed*) saturating creation and daily life, even amid brokenness?
2. How does studying God's statutes sharpen your ability to recognize His mercy operating throughout the world?
3. In what ways might modern secularism blind people to the 'fullness' of divine mercy evident in creation?

Interlinear Text

חֲסִדֶּיךָ	יְהוָה ! הָאֵל	מְלֵאָה הִיא	הָאֵרֶץ	חֻקֵּי יְיָ	לְמַדֵּנִי:
of thy mercy	O LORD	is full	The earth	me thy statutes	teach
H2617	H3068	H4390	H776	H2706	H3925

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 33:5 (References Lord): He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

Matthew 11:29 (Parallel theme): Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Psalms 119:12 (References Lord): Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.

Psalms 119:26 (Parallel theme): I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me: teach me thy statutes.

Psalms 145:9 (References Lord): The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

