

Psalms 119:68

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.

Analysis

Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes. This verse makes a profound distinction: God's essence (**Thou art good**—טוֹב-אַתָּה, tov-attah) and God's activity (**doest good**—וּמַעֲשֵׂה, u-metiv). God doesn't merely perform good actions—goodness is His very nature, and all His actions flow from that essence. Jesus affirmed 'No one is good but One, that is, God' (Mark 10:18).

The prayer **teach me thy statutes** reveals that knowing God's goodness should drive us to learn His ways. If God is perfectly good, then His commands reflect perfect goodness—not arbitrary restrictions but loving instruction. The psalmist seeks alignment with this good God through understanding His **statutes** (חֻקֵּי, chuqqekha)—permanent decrees flowing from His unchanging character. This anticipates the New Covenant promise: 'I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts' (Jeremiah 31:33).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern gods were often capricious and morally ambiguous. Israel's confession that Yahweh is essentially good, not merely powerful, was revolutionary. The goodness of God's character guaranteed the goodness of His law—Torah wasn't arbitrary divine whim but expression of perfect wisdom and love. Jesus embodied this perfectly: He 'went about doing good' (Acts 10:38) because He perfectly expressed the Father's nature (John 14:9).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Do you instinctively trust that God's commands are good, or do you view them as restrictions on your happiness?
2. How does understanding that goodness is God's essence (not merely His actions) transform your view of His sovereignty over suffering?
3. In what ways should God's perfect goodness motivate deeper study of His Word rather than casual obedience?

Interlinear Text

טוֹב	אֵתְּ הַ	וַיַּטְּ יָב	לִמֹּד נִי	חֻקֶּיךָ:
Thou art good	H859	and doest good	teach	me thy statutes
H2896		H2895	H3925	H2706

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 106:1 (Good): Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

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

Matthew 19:17 (Good): And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

Psalms 107:1 (Good): O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Psalms 86:5 (Good): For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Matthew 5:45 (Good): That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

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