

Psalms 119:91

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all are thy servants.

Analysis

They continue this day according to thine ordinances (כִּי-שְׁפֵטִים עַמְדוּ הַיּוֹם) kemishpatekha amdu hayom)—The heavens and earth persist by divine decree, obeying God's mishpatim (judgments, ordinances). The verb amad (stand, continue) echoes v. 90's "it abideth," emphasizing constancy. **For all are thy servants** (פִּי-הָكָל אַבְדִּים) ki-hakol avadekha)—creation itself serves God, a concept Job 38-41 explores at length.

This verse bridges natural and moral law: if the cosmos obeys God's statutes with perfect fidelity, how much more should humanity? Paul references this principle in Romans 8:19-22, where creation "groans" awaiting redemption—even fallen nature recognizes its Sovereign. The psalmist finds comfort that the same God who sustains galaxies sustains His Word.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern creation myths portrayed nature as chaotic forces needing constant divine re-conquest. By contrast, Genesis and the Psalms present creation as orderly, sustained by God's word (Genesis 1; Psalm 148). This verse affirms creation's ongoing obedience, countering pagan cosmologies.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does creation's obedience to God's ordinances reveal about the character of the Creator?
2. How can observing natural law (gravity, seasons, etc.) strengthen your confidence in moral law?

Interlinear Text

לְמַשְׁפָטֶיךָ	שְׁמַד יְ	הַכְּלָכִילָה
according to thine ordinances	They continue	this day
H4941	H5975	H3117
עֲבָדִיךָ		
for all are thy servants		
H5650		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 48:13 (Parallel theme): Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.

Jeremiah 33:25 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth;

Matthew 8:9 (Parallel theme): For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

