

Psalm 119:96

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have seen an end of all perfection: but thy commandment is exceeding broad.

Analysis

I have seen an end of all perfection לְכָל-תִּקְלָה בְּאִתִּי קֶצֶת (lekhhol-tikhlah ba'iti ketz)—Tikhlah (perfection, completeness) has limits (ketz, end, boundary). The psalmist observes finitude in all created excellence. **But thy commandment is exceeding broad** רְחַבָּה מְצֻוָּתָךְ מְאֹד (rechavah mitzvatkha me'od)—In contrast, God's mitzvah (commandment, law) is rachav (wide, broad, expansive) beyond measure (me'od, exceedingly).

This begins the Mem (n) section, shifting from affliction's testing to wisdom's meditation. Human achievement—beauty, strength, intellect—all fade (Isaiah 40:6-8). But Scripture's scope is infinite: Jesus intensified this in Matthew 5:21-48, showing how commandments penetrate not just actions but thoughts. Romans 7:12 declares the law "holy, just, and good"—comprehensive in moral demand, inexhaustible in application.

Historical Context

Solomon's wisdom had limits (1 Kings 4:29-34), yet he wrote Ecclesiastes lamenting life "under the sun" as vanity. Rome's glory crumbled, Greece's philosophy became foolishness (1 Corinthians 1:20). Every human system reaches its ketz. Only God's Word endures (Matthew 24:35).

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What "perfections" (achievements, relationships, experiences) have you seen reach their limits? How did that revelation affect you?
2. In what ways is God's commandment "exceeding broad"—how does it address areas of life you initially thought it didn't touch?

Interlinear Text

מְצַטֵּת בְּהֵן זֶה כִּלְתָּה יְתִי אָרֶן כָּלֶל
H3605 H8502 H7200 H7093 H7342 H4687
of all perfection I have seen an end broad but thy commandment
מְאַזֵּן:
is exceeding
H3966

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 24:35 (Word): Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Ecclesiastes 2:11 (Parallel theme): Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

Matthew 5:18 (Word): For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.