

Psalms 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 (לְכֹל־תִּכְלָה רָאִיתִי קֶצֶץ lekhol-tikhlah ra'iti ketz)—Tikhlah (perfection, completeness) has limits (ketz, end, boundary). The psalmist observes finitude in all created excellence. **But thy commandment is exceeding broad** (רַחֲבָה מִצְוַתְּךָ 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

Psalms 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

לְכָל	תְּכֵלָה	כִּי יֵרֵא	קֵץ	רָחֵב הִוא	מִצְוַתְךָ
H3605	of all perfection	I have seen	an end	broad	but thy commandment
	H8502	H7200	H7093	H7342	H4687

מְאֹד:
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.