

Psalm 139:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

Analysis

Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee—The emphatic yea (אָמֵן, gam) concludes the thought from v. 11. Hideth not (lo-yachshik, לֹא־יָחְשִׁיק)—darkness cannot darken things from God. Night shines (ya'ir, יָאֵר) as day—to divine perception, no difference exists. The final phrase darkness and light are both alike (ka-choshekah ka-orah, כְּחֹשֶׁכָּה כְּאוֹרָה uses ka (כְּ, 'as, like') twice—equal, equivalent, identical to God.

This obliterates our categories of concealment. God doesn't have night vision; He has perfect vision unaffected by ambient light levels. To Him who is light (1 John 1:5), all things are equally visible. This truth simultaneously comforts (God sees our affliction even in deepest darkness) and convicts (God sees our sin even in deepest secrecy).

Historical Context

Light and darkness were primal categories in Hebrew thought—creation began with God separating light from darkness (Genesis 1:4). Yet the Creator transcends His creation; the distinction that organizes our reality doesn't limit His perception. This verse presents God as utterly beyond creaturely limitations.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Since darkness and light are alike to God, what does this reveal about the futility of trying to hide anything from Him?
2. How does this truth comfort you when walking through your 'darkest valley' (Psalm 23:4)—that God sees perfectly even there?
3. What would change if you lived every moment—public daylight and private nighttime—with equal consciousness that all is equally visible to God?

Interlinear Text

גַם חַשֵּׁן לֹא מֵפָנֶיךָ יְרֵא לִילָה !
H1571 **Yea the darkness** H3808 **hideth** H4480 **not from thee but the night**
H2822 H2821 H3915

כְּאוֹרֶה: כְּשִׁנֵּיכְךָ הַיְאֵר פִּי וּמִ
as the day shineth the darkness and the light
H3117 H215 H2825 H219

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 2:22 (Light): He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

Job 34:22 (Darkness): There is no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.

Exodus 20:21 (Darkness): And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

Hebrews 4:13 (Parallel theme): Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

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