

Psalms 139:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I
grieved with those that rise up against thee?

Analysis

Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? David's rhetorical questions demand assent: loving God requires hating His enemies. Hate (אָנשׁ, sane) is strong language, but it's directed at those who hate God—not personal enemies but enemies of righteousness. **Grieved** (עֲתָוָה, etqotat, from עָוָה, qut) means to loathe, feel disgust, be weary with—moral revulsion at evil.

Those that rise up against thee (תְּקוּמַמֵּיךָ, teqomemecha) are active rebels, insurgents against divine authority. This verse reflects biblical 'holy hatred'—not personal malice but alignment with God's moral judgments. Revelation 2:6 praises the Ephesian church: 'you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.' Love for God produces corresponding opposition to what opposes God. David's question form shows this isn't optional for those who know God intimately.

Historical Context

David faced enemies who were simultaneously political and theological threats—they opposed God's anointed king and thus God's plan. The concept of 'holy hatred' appears throughout Scripture (Psalm 97:10, Amos 5:15, Romans 12:9). Jesus expressed fierce anger at those who profaned the temple (John 2:13-17) and defiled God's sheep (Matthew 23).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish between hating God's enemies (their rebellion) and hating people personally?
2. What things that God hates have you learned to tolerate or even embrace in contemporary culture?
3. How does Jesus's command to love enemies integrate with David's call to hate those who hate God?

Interlinear Text

הָלוֹא	אֲשֶׁנִּי אֶ	יְהוָה הֵן	אֲשֶׁנִּי אֶ	וּ בְתִקְוֹמֶיךָ יָרִיב
H3808	Do not I hate	them O LORD	Do not I hate	with those that rise up
	H8130	H3068	H8130	H8618
אֲתִקְוֹטֶיךָ				
thee and am not I grieved				
H6962				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:158 (Parallel theme): I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word.

Psalms 31:6 (References Lord): I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the LORD.

Revelation 2:2 (Parallel theme): I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

2 Chronicles 19:2 (References Lord): And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD.

Revelation 2:6 (Parallel theme): But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Psalms 26:5 (Parallel theme): I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked.

Psalms 119:136 (Parallel theme): Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.

Psalms 15:4 (References Lord): In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

Jeremiah 13:17 (References Lord): But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the LORD'S flock is carried away captive.

Mark 3:5 (Parallel theme): And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.