

Psalms 139:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.

Analysis

I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies. Perfect hatred (תַּחֲלִית שִׁנְאָה, tachlit sin'ah) means complete, full, thorough hatred—David's opposition to God's enemies is total, not partial. This isn't emotional instability but principled conviction: those who are God's enemies become David's enemies because David has identified fully with God's cause. **I count them mine enemies** (לְאוֹיְבִים הָיוּ לִי, le-oyevim hayu li) shows deliberate choice: David consciously adopts God's judgments as his own.

This verse must be understood Christologically: Jesus perfectly embodied this principle by opposing Satan and spiritual evil with complete resolve while simultaneously dying for human enemies to make them friends (Romans 5:10). 'Perfect hatred' in the believer is directed at sin, Satan, and spiritual forces of wickedness—while maintaining redemptive love toward people enslaved by them. David's prayer culminates (vv. 23-24) by asking God to search his own heart, showing that holy hatred begins with self-examination.

Historical Context

Written in the context of life-threatening persecution, David's 'perfect hatred' wasn't abstract theology but lived reality—compromise with God's enemies meant apostasy. The early church faced similar tensions (Revelation 2:14-16)—tolerating false teachers brought divine rebuke. Church history shows both healthy discernment and tragic extremes when applying this principle.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain 'perfect hatred' toward evil systems and spiritual wickedness while showing redemptive love to people caught in them?
2. What enemies of God have you made peace with that you should be opposing?
3. How do verses 23-24 (asking God to search your heart) provide the necessary balance to verses 19-22?

Interlinear Text

תָּכֵל יֵת	שִׂנְאָה ה	שִׂנְאָתִי יָם	לִי אֹיְבֵי יָם	לִי: הָ יֵת	
them with perfect	hatred	I hate	I count them mine enemies	H1961	H0
H8503	H8135	H8130	H341		

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