

Psalm 139:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Analysis

The second imperative continues verse 23's prayer, asking God to identify 'any wicked way' (literally 'way of pain' or 'idolatrous way'). The contrast between 'wicked way' and 'way everlasting' (derek olam—the ancient, eternal path) presents two destinies. This prayer acknowledges human blindness to sin and dependence on divine illumination. The verb 'lead' (nachah) implies gentle guidance, not harsh condemnation. David's humble petition demonstrates the marks of genuine repentance and the believer's confidence in God's redemptive purpose. This anticipates Christ as 'the way' (John 14:6) and the Spirit's work to convict and guide (John 16:8, 13).

Historical Context

This conclusion to Psalm 139 demonstrates David's mature spirituality shaped by past failures and God's restoration. The 'way everlasting' reflects Israel's understanding of the covenant path established by God's law and prophets, leading ultimately to Messiah. Ancient Israel distinguished between the way of life and the way of death (Deuteronomy 30:15-20).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What 'wicked way' might be present in your life that you've rationalized or overlooked?
2. How does confidence in God's leadership along the 'way everlasting' free you to pray honestly for His correction?

Interlinear Text

וְרָאָה אֶם בַּדְּ כֵּן עַצְבָּה בְּ ۚ נָחַנְתִּי
And see H7200 me in the way H518 if there be any wicked H6090 in me and lead H5148

עוֹלָם בַּדְּ כֵּן everlasting H1870 H5769

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 143:10 (Parallel theme): Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

Psalms 5:8 (Parallel theme): Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face.

Psalms 119:32 (Parallel theme): I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

Psalms 16:11 (Parallel theme): Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalms 143:8 (Parallel theme): Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.

John 14:6 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Proverbs 28:26 (Parallel theme): He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

Matthew 7:14 (Parallel theme): Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Colossians 2:6 (Parallel theme): As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Psalms 17:3 (Parallel theme): Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.

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