

Psalms 145:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

Analysis

The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. This comprehensive statement—*tsaddiq Yahweh bĕkhol-dĕrakhav* (צַדִּיק יְהוָה בְּכָל־דַּרְכָּיו) "righteous is Yahweh in all His ways"—affirms God's perfect justice in every action. *Tsaddiq* (צַדִּיק) "righteous" means conforming to the standard of right, acting with justice. The phrase *bĕkhol* "in all" eliminates exceptions: there are no unrighteous acts or unjust judgments from God.

Holy in all his works (*vĕchaside bĕkhol-ma'asav*, וְחֲסִיד בְּכָל־מַעֲשָׁיו)—*chaside* (חֲסִיד) "holy/faithful/kind" emphasizes both God's separateness from sin and His covenant loyalty. Every divine work manifests both perfect justice (*tsaddiq*) and perfect faithfulness (*chaside*). This answers theodicy questions: even incomprehensible sufferings originate from God's righteous, holy character.

Historical Context

Israel repeatedly struggled with apparent divine injustice—righteous sufferers, prospering wicked (Psalm 73, Habakkuk 1:2-4). This verse provided theological bedrock: regardless of appearances, God's ways are righteous and His works holy. Faith means trusting God's character even when unable to discern His purposes.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does this verse address doubts about God's justice when observing innocent suffering or wicked prosperity?
2. What is the relationship between God's righteousness and His holiness in His treatment of believers?
3. How can affirming God's righteousness in all His ways provide peace during incomprehensible trials?

Interlinear Text

צַדִּיק	יְהוָה	בְּכָל	דֶּרֶךְ יו	יְהוָה	בְּכָל	מַעֲשָׁיו:
is righteous	The LORD	H3605	in all his ways	and holy	H3605	in all his works
H6662	H3068		H1870	H2623		H4639

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 32:4 (Righteousness): He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

Isaiah 45:21 (Righteousness): Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.

Zephaniah 3:5 (Righteousness): The just LORD is in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame.

Psalms 103:6 (Righteousness): The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.

Revelation 19:11 (Righteousness): And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Psalms 89:14 (Righteousness): Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

Psalms 116:5 (Righteousness): Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful.

Psalms 50:6 (Righteousness): And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah.

Genesis 18:25 (Righteousness): That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?