

Psalm 145:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

Analysis

The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. The covenant name Yahweh (יְהָוָה) emphasizes God's personal, relational nature. Tov Yahweh lakkol (טוֹב־יְהָוָה לְכָל) "Yahweh is good to all"—universal divine benevolence transcending Israel alone. God's rachamav (רָחָם) "tender mercies" derives from rechem (רָחֵם) "womb," suggesting mother-like compassion, nurturing care, deep emotional attachment.

Over all his works (al-kol-ma'asav, עַל־כָּל־מְעָשָׂיו)—God's compassion extends to all creation, not humans alone. This anticipates Jesus's teaching that God feeds the birds and clothes the lilies (Matthew 6:26-30). The verse establishes God's common grace as foundation for His special, saving grace toward His elect.

Historical Context

This verse's universalism challenged Israel's tendency toward exclusive nationalism. While God chose Israel for special covenant relationship, He never ceased being the Creator and Sustainer of all peoples. Prophets like Jonah learned this lesson painfully when resisting God's compassion toward Nineveh.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How should God's goodness to all creation shape believers' environmental stewardship and care for animals?
2. What is the relationship between God's universal common grace and His particular saving grace toward the elect?
3. How can recognizing God's tender mercies toward all His works combat both human arrogance and ecological exploitation?

Interlinear Text

טוֹב	יְהֹוָה	לְכָל	כָּל	עַל
is good	The LORD	H3605	to all and his tender mercies	H5921 H3605
H2896	H3068		H7356	
מְעַשֵּׁי:				
are over all his works				
H4639				

Additional Cross-References

Nahum 1:7 (Good): The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

Psalms 100:5 (Good): For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Matthew 5:45 (Good): That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Acts 17:25 (Parallel theme): Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

Jonah 4:11 (Parallel theme): And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?

Psalms 104:27 (Parallel theme): These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season.