

Psalms 17:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

David submits to God's testing: 'You have tried my heart.' The Hebrew 'bachan' (tried/tested) suggests refining metal. God's night visitation and testing by fire found nothing—David resolved that his mouth would not transgress. This parallels Job's confidence in divine testing (Job 23:10) and anticipates Peter's teaching that trials prove faith's genuineness (1 Peter 1:7). Reformed theology sees trials as God's sanctifying means.

Historical Context

Reflects ancient metallurgy where fire purified precious metals by burning away impurities—a common biblical metaphor for divine testing and sanctification.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you view trials—as obstacles or as God's refining process?
2. What does your speech under pressure reveal about your heart's condition?

Interlinear Text

תָּבִיחַ נָתַתָּ	לִבִּי יוֹ	פָּקַדְתָּ דָּתִי	לַיְלָה	צָרַפְתָּ נִי
Thou hast proved	mine heart	thou hast visited	me in the night	thou hast tried
H974	H3820	H6485	H3915	H6884
בִּלְ	תִּתְמָצֵא אֵ	יִמּוֹתַי	בִּלְ	יַעֲבֹר
H1077	me and shalt find	nothing I am purposed	H1077	shall not transgress
	H4672	H2161		H5674
פִּי:				
that my mouth				
H6310				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 39:1 (Parallel theme): I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.

Job 23:10 (Parallel theme): But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

Acts 11:23 (Parallel theme): Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

Psalms 26:2 (Parallel theme): Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

1 Peter 1:7 (Parallel theme): That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Psalms 66:10 (Parallel theme): For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.

Psalms 16:7 (Parallel theme): I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.

Psalms 119:106 (Parallel theme): I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments.

Psalms 11:5 (Parallel theme): The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.

Psalms 139:1 (Parallel theme): O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me.

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