

Psalms 18:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity.

Analysis

David was 'blameless' ('tamim'—whole/complete) before God and kept himself from iniquity. Blameless doesn't mean sinless but undivided in loyalty. The Hebrew 'aven' (iniquity) is intentional evil. David maintained integrity despite temptation and opportunity for revenge. This anticipates Paul's goal of blameless holiness (1 Thessalonians 5:23) and Jesus' call to be perfect/complete (Matthew 5:48).

Historical Context

Particularly references David sparing Saul's life when he could have justified killing him, maintaining moral integrity despite provocation and human reasoning that supported vengeance.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. In what areas are you tempted toward divided loyalty to God?
2. How do you actively 'keep yourself' from known sin patterns?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵנִי יָשָׁר	תָּמָּה יָם	עִמּוֹ	וְאֶשְׁתַּמֶּה רַ	מִעֲוֹנִי:
H1961	I was also upright	H5973	before him and I kept	myself from mine iniquity
	H8549		H8104	H5771

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:27 (Parallel theme): Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.

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.

Psalms 11:7 (Parallel theme): For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

1 Chronicles 29:17 (Parallel theme): I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

1 Samuel 26:23 (Parallel theme): The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed.