

Psalm 19:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

Analysis

David prays to be kept from 'presumptuous sins' that they not have dominion. The Hebrew 'zed' (presumptuous) indicates willful, arrogant rebellion. Then he would be 'blameless' and 'innocent of great transgression.' This distinguishes between weakness sins and defiant sins. Numbers 15:30-31 prescribed cutting off for presumptuous sins. This anticipates the New Testament distinction between struggling with sin and living in unrepentant rebellion (1 John 3:6-9).

Historical Context

Old Testament law distinguished between unintentional sin (with atonement provision) and presumptuous sin (deliberate rebellion with severe consequences).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you guard against presumptuous, willful sin versus weakness?
2. What does it mean for sin to have 'dominion' versus struggling with temptation?

Interlinear Text

אַל עֲבֹד בְּנֵי מִזְרָח יִמְצָא
also from presumptuous Keep back thy servant

H1571

H2086

אַל עֲבֹד בְּנֵי מִזְרָח יִמְצָא
thy servant

H2820

H408

אַתָּה מִנְשָׁלֹן!
sins let them not have dominion

H4910

אַתָּה מִנְשָׁלֹן!
over me then shall I be upright

H0

H227

H8552

כִּי מִפְּשָׁע אַתָּה מִנְקָרֵת
and I shall be innocent transgression from the great

H5352

H6588

H7227

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:133 (Sin): Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

Acts 24:16 (Parallel theme): And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

1 Samuel 25:39 (Parallel theme): And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed be the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil: for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife.

Psalms 84:11 (Parallel theme): For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Psalms 7:10 (Parallel theme): My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart.

Genesis 20:6 (Sin): And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her.

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

Psalms 18:23 (Sin): I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity.

2 Peter 2:10 (Parallel theme): But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

Exodus 21:14 (Parallel theme): But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die.