

Psalms 36:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.

Analysis

The Hebrew structure is complex: 'transgression speaks to the wicked within his heart.' Sin personified delivers its message, convincing the wicked that God is irrelevant. The phrase 'no fear of God before his eyes' is quoted in Romans 3:18 as descriptive of universal human depravity. Fear of God is foundational to wisdom (Proverbs 9:10); its absence produces moral chaos where sin's voice replaces divine authority, making the wicked autonomous moral agents accountable to none.

Historical Context

Written by David, this psalm contrasts the wicked's self-deception with God's faithfulness. The concept of 'fear of God' was central to covenant relationship, denoting reverence, awe, and obedient trust rather than mere terror.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What voices compete with God's voice in your heart, and how do you discern them?
2. How does the fear of God function as protection against sin's deceptions?

Interlinear Text

אֵין לֵב יְהוָה בְּקַרְבָּן לְבַשְׂעָר תְּאַמְּנָה
saith The transgression of the wicked within my heart H369
H5002 H6588 H7563 H7130 H3820

לֹא לִפְנֵי עֵינָיו לֹא לִפְנֵי עֵינָיו
that there is no fear of God before his eyes H5048 H5869
H6343 H430

Additional Cross-References

Romans 3:18 (References God): There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Proverbs 16:6 (Sin): By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

Psalms 18:1 (Parallel theme): I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.

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