

Psalms 36:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful.

Analysis

Self-flattery (Hebrew 'chalaq,' to be smooth, slippery) describes the wicked smoothing over conscience's objections, rationalizing sin until conviction is silenced. 'Until his iniquity be found to be hateful' suggests eventual discovery and exposure—either by others or through consequences making sin's ugliness undeniable. This psychological insight reveals how sin requires ongoing self-deception; maintaining wickedness demands suppressing truth that would otherwise produce repentance.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom literature recognized the connection between self-deception and moral decline. The wicked's smooth speech to himself parallels the serpent's smooth deception in Eden, showing how lies precede and enable sin.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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