

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

Study Questions

1. In what areas might you be flattering yourself rather than honestly assessing your sin?
2. How can accountability relationships help expose self-deception before consequences do?

Interlinear Text

בַּקְרֵב יְקַנֵּתִי אֶל־עֵינֵי־יִשְׁעָתִי לְמַצֵּא עַזְנָתִי
H3588 For he flattereth H413 himself in his own eyes H5869 be found H4672 until his iniquity H5771

לִשְׁנָא:
to be hateful
H8130

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 29:19 (Parallel theme): And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst:

Psalms 49:18 (Parallel theme): Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself.

Psalms 10:3 (Parallel theme): For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth.