

Psalms 37:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.

Analysis

The law of his God is in his heart (תֹּוֹתֶת אֱלֹהִים בְּלִבּוֹ, torat elohav be-libbo)—This describes internalized obedience, where God's torah (instruction, law) has moved from external command to internal compass. Jeremiah 31:33 prophesies this new covenant reality. **None of his steps shall slide** (לֹא תִּמְעַד אֲשֶׁרְיוֹ, lo tim'ad ashurav)—The verb ma'ad means to slip, totter, or waver.

The heart filled with God's law produces stability. David contrasts the wicked who watch (v. 32) with the righteous who walk securely. Paul echoes this in Romans 2:15, describing the law written on hearts. This is the essence of sanctification—not external conformity but internal transformation.

Historical Context

Psalm 37 is a wisdom psalm attributed to David, written in acrostic form following the Hebrew alphabet for teaching purposes. This structure aided memorization. The psalm addresses theodicy—why do the wicked prosper while the righteous suffer?

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does having God's law in your heart differ from merely knowing biblical commands intellectually?
2. What specific areas of your life feel unsteady, and how might internalizing Scripture bring stability?
3. How does this verse speak to the perseverance of the saints and assurance of salvation?

Interlinear Text

תֹּוֹךְ תְּמֻעַד אֲלֹפֶת יְהִי בְּלֵב וְאַלְפָת יְהִי תֹּוֹךְ תְּמֻעַד אֲשֶׁרְיוֹן
The law of his God is in his heart shall slide none of his steps
H8451 H430 H3820 H3808 H4571 H838

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 40:8 (Word): I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Deuteronomy 6:6 (Word): And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

Psalms 119:11 (Word): Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalms 37:23 (Parallel theme): The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

Isaiah 51:7 (Word): Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

Jeremiah 31:33 (Word): But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Hebrews 8:10 (Word): For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Psalms 119:98 (Word): Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.

Psalms 121:3 (Parallel theme): He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Psalms 1:2 (Word): But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

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