

Psalms 40:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest.

Analysis

David declares his proclamation of 'righteousness in the great congregation.' The Hebrew tzedakah (righteousness) refers to God's covenant faithfulness and saving acts. The 'great congregation' (qahal rav) indicates public worship where testimony strengthens corporate faith. David's refrain 'I have not refrained my lips' emphasizes bold, unashamed witness.

Historical Context

Temple worship included public testimony of God's deliverance. This pattern of corporate witness shaped Israel's identity and later influenced early Christian practice of sharing testimonies in gathered assemblies.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What prevents you from sharing God's faithfulness in the 'great congregation'?

2. How does public testimony strengthen both the one who shares and those who hear?

Interlinear Text

בִּשְׁרִיתִי	צִדְקָה	בְּקִרְיָה ל	בְּבֵית	הַגָּדֹל	שִׁפְתֵי
I have preached	righteousness	congregation	in the great	H2009	my lips
H1319	H6664	H6951	H7227		H8193
לֹא	אֶכְלָא	הָיָה ! הָיָה	אַתָּה הָיָה	יָדָעְתָּ:	
H3808	lo I have not refrained	O LORD	H859	thou knowest	
	H3607	H3068		H3045	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 22:25 (Parallel theme): My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.

Psalms 119:13 (Parallel theme): With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.

Hebrews 2:12 (Parallel theme): Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

Psalms 22:22 (Parallel theme): I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.

Psalms 35:18 (Parallel theme): I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.

Joshua 22:22 (References Lord): The LORD God of gods, the LORD God of gods, he knoweth, and Israel he shall know; if it be in rebellion, or if in transgression against the LORD, (save us not this day,)