

Psalms 44:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Our heart is not turned back, neither have our steps declined from thy way;

Analysis

The loyalty claim continues: 'Our heart is not turned back, neither have our steps declined from thy way.' Heart (intention, affection) and steps (behavior, practice) together encompass the whole person. The community has not apostatized either internally or externally. Their suffering cannot be explained by unfaithfulness.

Historical Context

The 'way' (derek) of the LORD refers to the path of covenant obedience outlined in Torah. Claiming adherence to this way while suffering challenges simplistic interpretations of blessing and curse.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to maintain both heart direction and behavioral obedience during trials?
2. How does unexplained suffering challenge and potentially deepen our theology?

Interlinear Text

| | | |
|-------|----------------------|-------|
| לֹא | אֲשֶׁר יִנְאַ | מִבְּ |
| H3808 | is not turned | back |
| | H5472 | H268 |

אֶרְחָב
from thy way
H734

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:51 (Parallel theme): The proud have had me greatly in derision: yet have I not declined from thy law.

Psalms 119:157 (Parallel theme): Many are my persecutors and mine enemies; yet do I not decline from thy testimonies.

Psalms 78:57 (Parallel theme): But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow.

Zephaniah 1:6 (Parallel theme): And them that are turned back from the LORD; and those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for him.

Psalms 125:5 (Parallel theme): As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the LORD shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity: but peace shall be upon Israel.

Job 34:27 (Parallel theme): Because they turned back from him, and would not consider any of his ways:

Jeremiah 11:10 (Parallel theme): They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear my words; and they went after other gods to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (Parallel theme): Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Luke 17:32 (Parallel theme): Remember Lot's wife.

1 Kings 15:5 (Parallel theme): Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org