

Psalms 50:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes.

Analysis

God's patience misinterpreted: 'These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself.' Divine patience is mistaken for indifference or approval. The wicked projects their own character onto God, assuming He shares their tolerance for sin. But silence is not endorsement.

Historical Context

This verse anticipates Romans 2:4, where Paul warns that God's kindness intends repentance, not continued sin. Misreading divine patience leads to judgment.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How might we mistake God's patience for approval of our sin?
2. What does 'thinking God is like ourselves' reveal about our understanding of His holiness?

Interlinear Text

אֵלֶּה H428	עָשָׂה יְתָן H6213	וְהִחַב שְׁתִּי H2790	דָּמָה יָתָה H1819
These things	hast thou done	and I kept silence	thou thoughtest
אֶהְיֶה הָאֵל H1961	אֶהְיֶה הָאֵל H1961	כָּמוֹן H3644	
that I was altogether	that I was altogether		
אֶחָדָם H3198	וְאֶעְרָךְ הָאֵל H6186	לְעֵינֶיךָ H5869	
such an one as thyself but I will reprove	thee and set them in order	before thine eyes	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 57:11 (Parallel theme): And of whom hast thou been afraid or feared, that thou hast lied, and hast not remembered me, nor laid it to thy heart? have not I held my peace even of old, and thou fearest me not?

Proverbs 29:1 (Parallel theme): He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Isaiah 42:14 (Parallel theme): I have long time holden my peace; I have been still, and refrained myself: now will I cry like a travailing woman; I will destroy and devour at once.

Psalms 90:8 (Parallel theme): Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (Parallel theme): For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

1 Corinthians 4:5 (Parallel theme): Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Psalms 50:3 (Parallel theme): Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.

Psalms 73:11 (Parallel theme): And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?

Amos 8:7 (Parallel theme): The LORD hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works.

Revelation 3:19 (Parallel theme): As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.