

Psalms 55:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

God shall hear, and afflict them, even he that abideth of old.
Selah. Because they have no changes, therefore they fear not
God.

Analysis

God's eternality ('from old') grounds His present action against the wicked. The Hebrew 'anah' (afflict/humble) reveals God's active judgment on those who refuse repentance. 'No changes' indicates hardness of heart—the wicked's immutability in rebellion contrasts with God's unchanging righteousness, demonstrating that apostasy results from persistent resistance to grace.

Historical Context

The reference to God's eternal reign 'from old' connects to Israel's foundational confession of YHWH's sovereignty from creation. Those who 'have no changes' are contrasted with those whom God transforms through covenant renewal.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's unchanging character provide both comfort to the faithful and warning to the rebellious?

2. What evidence of spiritual transformation should mark those who truly fear God?

Interlinear Text

יִשְׁמַע עוֹ	אֵל לֹ	וְיִשְׁמְעוּם	וְיָשֵׁב בְּ	אֶשְׁרֵי קֹדֶם	סֵלָה	אֱלֹהִים:
shall hear	God	H6031	them even he that abideth	of old	Selah	H834
H8085	H410		H3427	H6924	H5542	
אֵל יִן	וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה	וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה	וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה	וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה	וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה	וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה
H369	Because they have no changes	H0	H3808	therefore they fear	not God	H430
	H2487			H3372		

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 33:27 (References God): The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

Jeremiah 48:11 (Parallel theme): Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 (Parallel theme): Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

Micah 5:2 (Parallel theme): But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Zephaniah 1:12 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.

Isaiah 36:20 (References God): Who are they among all the gods of these lands, that have delivered their land out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?

Colossians 1:17 (Parallel theme): And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Psalms 78:59 (References God): When God heard this, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel:

Psalms 143:12 (Parallel theme): And of thy mercy cut off mine enemies, and destroy all them that afflict my soul: for I am thy servant.

Psalms 65:5 (References God): By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea: