

Psalms 58:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.

Analysis

The conclusion vindicates two truths: reward exists for the righteous and God judges the earth. The Hebrew 'peri' (fruit/reward) connects to works proceeding from faith. 'Verily there is a God' responds to practical atheism that denies accountability. This anticipates the final judgment when every hidden thing comes to light (Ecclesiastes 12:14, 2 Corinthians 5:10).

Historical Context

This affirmation counters the psalmist's own earlier question (v.1) and the wicked's assumption that God is inactive or nonexistent. The visible execution of justice serves pedagogical purpose, testifying to God's reality and moral governance.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty of future judgment affect present faithfulness?
2. What evidences of God's current judgment point toward final eschatological judgment?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר יְהוָה אֶל־מֵן אֲשֶׁר־פָּרָשׁ אֶת־לְצִדְקָה יְהוָה
shall say So that a man H389 Verily there is a reward for the righteous H389
H559 H120 H6529 H6662

וְאֵשׁ יְהוָה יְמִינָה שְׁפָטֵבָה בָּאָרֶץ
verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth H776
H3426 H430 H8199

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 33:18 (Parallel theme): Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;

Psalms 67:4 (Righteousness): O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah.

Isaiah 3:10 (Righteousness): Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.

Psalms 64:9 (References God): And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider of his doing.

Romans 2:5 (Righteousness): But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Malachi 3:14 (References God): Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

Psalms 98:9 (Righteousness): Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

Malachi 2:17 (Judgment): Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?

Psalms 9:8 (Righteousness): And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

Psalms 18:20 (Righteousness): The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.