

Psalms 77:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?

Analysis

The psalm declares "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary" (Hebrew Elohim baqqodesh darkekha)—God's ways are revealed in His holy presence and worship. The rhetorical question "Who is so great a God as our God?" (Hebrew mi-El gadol ka-Elohim) expects the answer "none." This juxtaposes God's transcendent greatness with His condescending nearness in the sanctuary. The verse affirms that understanding God's "ways" (His character, purposes, methods) comes through encountering Him in worship, not abstract philosophy.

Historical Context

The "sanctuary" (Hebrew qodesh) refers to the tabernacle and later temple where God met His people through ordained worship, sacrifice, and priesthood. This verse anticipates Exodus 15:11, sung after the Red Sea crossing: "Who is like unto thee, O LORD?" God's greatness is demonstrated through redemptive acts.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does corporate worship help you understand God's ways and character?
2. In what sense is Christ the ultimate "sanctuary" where God's way is fully revealed (John 14:6)?
3. What makes Israel's God categorically different from all false deities ancient or modern?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	בְּקִדְשׁ	דְּרָכָךְ	יְהוָה	אֵל	גָּדוֹל	יְהוָה
O God	is in the sanctuary	Thy way	H4310	a God	who is so great	O God
H430	H6944	H1870		H410	H1419	H430

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 73:17 (Temple): Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

Exodus 15:11 (References God): Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Psalms 63:2 (Temple): To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

Deuteronomy 32:31 (Parallel theme): For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges.

Isaiah 40:25 (Parallel theme): To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.

Isaiah 46:5 (Parallel theme): To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like?

Isaiah 40:18 (References God): To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

Psalms 86:8 (References God): Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works.

Psalms 27:4 (Temple): One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

Psalms 71:19 (References God): Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things: O God, who is like unto thee!

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