

Psalm 99:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The king's strength also loveth judgment; thou dost establish equity, thou executest judgment and righteousness in Jacob.

Analysis

The declaration that 'the king's strength also loveth judgment' presents God's power as being devoted to justice (mishpat). Unlike earthly tyrants who use power for oppression, God's strength serves righteousness. The phrase 'thou dost establish equity' (meysharim—uprightness, fairness) shows God actively creating just order. Executing 'judgment and righteousness in Jacob' demonstrates God's involvement in establishing justice among His covenant people. This verse refutes the notion that power and justice are opposed—in God they are perfectly united.

Historical Context

Israel's experience of Egyptian oppression and their own laws (Torah) provided context for appreciating a powerful King who uses strength to establish justice rather than exploit the weak.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's commitment to justice encourage you when you face injustice or oppression?
2. In what ways can you use whatever power or influence you have to establish equity and righteousness?

Interlinear Text

כֹּוֹן נָתָּת אָתָּה אֶל בָּנֶוּן מִשְׁפָּט מֶלֶג וְעַז
thou dost establish also loveth the king's strength
H3559 H157 H4941 H5797

עֲשֵׂיתָ אֶת הַבְּנָקָר בְּנֵי מִשְׁרָר יְמִינָה
thou executest in Jacob and righteousness judgment equity
H6213 H3290 H6666 H4941 H4339

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 11:7 (Love): For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

Revelation 19:16 (Kingdom): And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Jeremiah 23:5 (Righteousness): Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.