

Psalm 36

The psalm, considering the confession of Judah before Joseph, reflects on the nature of iniquity - "For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until *his iniquity be found* to be hateful."

See **Genesis 44:16** - "God hath *found out* the iniquity of thy servants."

It's a snapshot of the fallen human heart apart from God's grace in Jesus Christ.

Psalm 36:1 - "The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes."

Rashi - I feel within my heart that the transgression - i.e., the "evil inclination" - says to the wicked man that the fear of God should not be before his eyes.

Or, as in the NIV - "An oracle is within my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes."

Psalm 36:2 - "For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful."

He flatters = he lies to himself. *Chalak* = to be smooth, slippery, deceitful.

Rashi - The transgression - i.e., the evil inclination - made smooth places appear to his eyes in order that the Holy One, blessed be He, find his iniquity, to hate him.

But:

Hebrews 4:13 - "And no creature is hidden from God, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account."

Psalm 36:4 - "He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil."

Rashi - The Holy One, blessed be He, placed before him the good way and the way of death, yet he chooses for himself a way that is not good.

This is the downward spiral of sin.

Now David turns in contrast to the delightfulness of God.

Psalm 36:5 - "Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds."

Rashi - Because of these wicked men, You remove [Your] kindness from the earth creatures and raise up Your faith until the sky to remove it from the sons of men.

Loyal Love:

The Hebrew word for “stork” comes from *hesed*, because the Hebrews observed the tender care that the stork has for its young. It flies into the high fir trees to make its nests secure from predators (**Ps. 104:17**).

Psalm 36:6 - “Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast.”

Rashi - “The one with whom You wish to deal charitably, You raise up and strengthen like the mighty mountains. Whomever You wish to judge, and wreak vengeance upon, You humble him to the vast deep. People who are as astute as Adam, but who make themselves as humble as beasts, You save, O Lord.”

Romans 11:33 - “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!”

The wicked strive to fill themselves, and are never satisfied. The righteous are blessed with a river of abundance, even in a barren land.

Psalm 36:9 - “For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.”

Life and Light:

John 1:4 - “In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.”

John 5:21 - “For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.”

2 Corinthians 4:4 - “the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

Psalm 36:10 - “O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.”

We need a continuing, steady flow of grace, every moment.

(See more at Bible.org, Psalms Commentary by Steven J. Cole)
<https://buff.ly/2imq3nJ>