

Isaiah 1:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

Analysis

Four parallel descriptions intensify the portrait of Judah's corruption: sinful nation, people laden with iniquity, seed of evildoers, and corrupt children. The phrase 'Holy One of Israel' (qadosh Yisrael) appears 25 times in Isaiah, emphasizing God's transcendent purity in contrast to their defilement. The progressive verbs indicate complete apostasy: forsaken, provoked, and gone backward.

Historical Context

Despite outward religious observance, eighth-century Judah had absorbed Canaanite practices and social injustice, provoking divine judgment while trusting in political alliances rather than covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Are there areas where you maintain religious appearances while harboring secret sins?
2. How does understanding God's holiness affect your view of sin's seriousness?

Interlinear Text

מַרְעֵת יִם זְבֻעַ צָוָא בְּדַעַת חַטָּאת אָגָוָה הַוִּילָה
Ah nation sinful a people laden with iniquity a seed of evildoers
H1945 H1471 H2398 H5971 H3515 H5771 H2233 H7489

וְהַבָּנִים יְמִשְׁחִיתִים יְמִשְׁחִיתִים עֲזָבָה אֶת הָיְהָה
children that are corrupters they have forsaken the LORD
H1121 H7843 H5800 H3068

אָחָרֶנֶם רָזֶה שְׁבָא לְזִד וְשִׁבְעָה אֶת תְּאַזֵּב
they have provoked the Holy One of Israel they are gone away backward
H5006 H853 H6918 H3478 H2114 H268

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 5:24 (Holy): Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Jeremiah 2:17 (References Lord): Hast thou not procured this unto thyself, in that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, when he led thee by the way?

Jeremiah 2:13 (Evil): For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Isaiah 5:19 (Holy): That say, Let him make speed, and hasten his work, that we may see it: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it!

Jeremiah 7:19 (References Lord): Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?

Jeremiah 2:19 (Evil): Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

Romans 8:7 (Parallel theme): Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Matthew 3:7 (Parallel theme): But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

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