

Isaiah 29:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?

Analysis

Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD (הָוֵ) (theם, hoy hama'amikim meYHWH lastir etsah)—they, **הַמְעַמִּיקִים מִיהָנָה לְסַתֵּר עֲצָה** (hama'amikim, seek deep, burrow down) to **לְסַתֵּר** (lastir, hide, conceal) their **עֲצָה** (etsah, counsel, plans). **And their works are in the dark** (וְהֵי בְמַחְשָׁךְ מַעֲשֵׂהֶם) (vehayah vemachshakh ma'aseyhem)—in **מַחְשָׁךְ** (machshakh, darkness, obscurity) their deeds occur. **And they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?** (וַיֹּאמְרוּ מַיִם, vayomeru mi ro'enu umi yode'enu)—denying divine omniscience.

The sixth woe in Isaiah's collection targets those who think they can conceal plots from the omniscient God. Politicians conspiring Egyptian alliances, merchants using false balances, religious leaders manipulating for gain—all assume darkness hides their schemes. The rhetorical questions ('Who sees? Who knows?') express practical atheism: functional denial of God's all-seeing presence. Psalm 94:7-11 addresses this same delusion: 'They say, The LORD shall not see... He that planted the ear, shall he not hear?'

Historical Context

Judah's leaders negotiated secret alliances with Egypt against Assyria, deceiving themselves that they could hide political machinations from God. Isaiah repeatedly condemned these Egyptian overtures (chapters 30-31). The pattern persists: the

wicked assume privacy in sin, forgetting Hebrews 4:13—"all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.'

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What 'counsel' might you be seeking to hide from the LORD in your heart or actions?
2. How does practical atheism (living as if God doesn't see) infiltrate even believers' lives?
3. What changes when we truly internalize that 'all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him'?

Interlinear Text

וְיַהֲיֵה	לְסַתְּרֵה	עַצְתָּה	וְיַבְּנֵה	הַמְּעַמֵּיקִים	מִיהִינְתָּה	בְּמַעֲמִיקָה	וְיַמְּלֵא
Woe	unto them that seek deep	from the LORD	to hide	their counsel			H1961
H1945	H6009	H3068	H5641	H6098			

רִאֵנָה בְּמַחְשָׁר מְעַשֵּׂיה מִי וְאָמַר וְ H4310 Who seeth H4310
are in the dark and their works and they say H4285 H4639 H559 H7200

ידענו:

us and who knoweth

H3045

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 8:12 (Darkness): Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth.

Isaiah 30:1 (References Lord): Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

Isaiah 47:10 (Parallel theme): For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.

Isaiah 28:15 (Parallel theme): Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:

Psalms 59:7 (Parallel theme): Behold, they belch out with their mouth: swords are in their lips: for who, say they, doth hear?

Job 34:22 (Darkness): There is no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.

Malachi 2:17 (References Lord): 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?
