

Isaiah 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The shew of their countenance doth witness against them;
and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe
unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.

Analysis

Judah's open shamelessness regarding sin parallels Sodom's blatant immorality. The phrase 'they declare their sin' indicates prideful, public wickedness without conscience or concealment. Rather than hiding sin in shame, they parade it openly. The pronouncement 'woe unto their soul' declares self-inflicted judgment—they 'have rewarded evil unto themselves' through their choices.

Historical Context

Sodom's comparison (Genesis 19) was the ultimate indictment. Ancient societies generally maintained some shame about immorality; Judah's open sin demonstrated complete moral collapse.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does contemporary culture's celebration of sin reflect this Sodom-like shamelessness?

2. In what ways might you have become desensitized to sins that should still provoke godly sorrow?

Interlinear Text

ת	הִכָּר	ת	פְּנֵיהֶם	עַ	נִתָּה	וְ	חַטָּאתָם	בְּ	מ
The shew		of their countenance		doth witness against them		H0		their sin	
H1971		H6440		H6030				H2403	
כִּסְדֹּם		וְהִגִּידוּ		לֹא		כִּי דֹבֵי		אֵין	
as Sodom		and they declare		H3808		they hide		it not Woe	
H5467		H5046				H3582		H188	
						וְ		לְנַפְשָׁם	
						H3588		H5315	
וְגִמְלוֹ		לָהֶם		רָעָה:					
for they have rewarded		H1992		evil					
H1580				H7451					

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 13:13 (Sin): But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

Jeremiah 6:15 (Parallel theme): Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.