

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

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| הַכְּבָד | פְּנִימָם | עַל נִתְהָא | וַיַּרְא אֶת מְבָרֶכֶת |
| The shew | of their countenance | doth witness against them | their sin |
| H1971 | H6440 | H6030 | H2403 |
| כְּסֻדָּם | הַגְּדוֹלָה | לֹא כַּתֵּדְתִּי | לְנַפְשָׁם |
| as Sodom | and they declare | they hide | unto their soul |
| H5467 | H5046 | H3808 | H3588 |
| בְּעֵהֶב לְפָנֶיךָ גָּמְלָה | | | |
| 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.