

Isaiah 44:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish;

Analysis

God 'frustrates the tokens of the liars' (Babylonian omens and signs), 'makes diviners mad' (exposes their fraudulence), 'turns wise men backward' (reverses their wisdom), and 'makes their knowledge foolish.' The Hebrew 'sakal' (make foolish) shows divine exposure of human pretension. Against human wisdom, God's word stands.

Historical Context

Babylon was famous for its wise men, astrologers, and diviners (Daniel 2:2). God's frustration of their predictions vindicated His prophets and demonstrated that true wisdom comes only from Him.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God expose the foolishness of wisdom that excludes Him?

2. What confident predictions of experts has God overturned in your experience?

Interlinear Text

מִפְרָץ	זֹהַת	בְּקָרִים	יְלִקְשָׁמִים	הַזָּלֶל
That frustrateth	the tokens	of the liars	and maketh diviners	mad
H6565	H226	H907	H7080	H1984

מִשְׁבֵּת	בְּקָרִים	אָחָר	מִשְׁבֵּת	יְדָעָתָם	יִסְכְּלֶל
that turneth	wise	men backward	and maketh their knowledge	foolish	
H7725	H2450	H268	H1847	H5528	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 33:10 (Parallel theme): The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.

Jeremiah 50:36 (Parallel theme): A sword is upon the liars; and they shall dote: a sword is upon her mighty men; and they shall be dismayed.

2 Samuel 15:31 (Parallel theme): And one told David, saying, Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.

Jeremiah 51:57 (Parallel theme): And I will make drunk her princes, and her wise men, her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men: and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 29:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.