

Isaiah 48:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the LORD, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness.

Analysis

The address to those who 'swear by the name of the LORD' yet 'not in truth, nor in righteousness' exposes false profession - external religious form without internal reality. The phrase 'called by the name of Israel' but failing to live accordingly anticipates Jesus' warning about those who say 'Lord, Lord' without doing His will (Matthew 7:21). True covenant membership requires heart transformation, not mere ethnic or religious pedigree.

Historical Context

This addresses post-exilic Jews who maintained religious ritual while lacking genuine faithfulness. The prophets consistently confronted Israel's disconnect between professed identity and actual behavior, preparing for Jesus' conflicts with Pharisees.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. In what ways might you 'swear by the LORD's name' in public while lacking private reality?
2. How can you ensure your religious identity reflects genuine heart transformation?

Interlinear Text

שְׁמָעוּ Hear H8085	זֶה אֵת H2063 ye this	בֵּית H1004 O house	יַעֲקֹב of Jacob H3290	הַנִּקְרָאִים which are called H7121	בְּשֵׁם by the name H8034
יִשְׂרָאֵל of Israel H3478	וּמִמֶּי י out of the waters H4325	יְהוּדָה of Judah H3063	וְצָאוּ and are come forth H3318	הַנִּשְׁבָּעִים which swear H7650	
בְּשֵׁם by the name H8034	יְהוָה of the LORD H3068	וּבֵאלֹהֵי of the God H430	יִשְׂרָאֵל of Israel H3478	וְזָכְרוּ and make mention H2142	לֹא H3808
בְּאֵמֶת but not in truth H571	וְלֹא H3808	בְּצִדְקָה nor in righteousness H6666			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 4:2 (Righteousness): And thou shalt swear, The LORD liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory.

Psalms 68:26 (References God): Bless ye God in the congregations, even the Lord, from the fountain of Israel.

Isaiah 65:16 (Truth): That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes.

Jeremiah 5:2 (References Lord): And though they say, The LORD liveth; surely they swear falsely.

Genesis 32:28 (References God): And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

Deuteronomy 33:28 (References Israel): Israel then shall dwell in safety alone: the fountain of Jacob shall be upon a land of corn and wine; also his heavens shall drop down dew.

Deuteronomy 6:13 (References God): Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

Numbers 24:7 (Parallel theme): He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted.