

# Isaiah 57:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Against whom do ye sport yourselves? against whom make ye a wide mouth, and draw out the tongue? are ye not children of transgression, a seed of falsehood,

## Analysis

The rhetorical questions expose the absurdity and arrogance of mocking God. The phrase "sport yourselves" translates the Hebrew titanagu, suggesting derisive laughter and contemptuous mockery. "Making a wide mouth" and "drawing out the tongue" describe gestures of scorn and defiance (Psalm 22:7). The interrogative "Against whom?" emphasizes that their mockery ultimately targets Yahweh Himself, not merely His prophets. The answer comes immediately: they are "children of transgression" (yalde-pesha) and "seed of falsehood" (zera shaqer). This language parallels Jesus' condemnation of the Pharisees as children of the devil (John 8:44). Reformed theology recognizes that rebellion against God's truth constitutes the essence of depravity. Those who mock divine revelation demonstrate their spiritual lineage as offspring of deception rather than children of God.

## Historical Context

The mockery described here likely refers to the scoffing response of Judah's leaders and people toward Isaiah's prophecies of judgment. Similar contemptuous responses to prophetic warnings appear throughout Israel's history (2 Chronicles 36:16, Jeremiah 20:7-8). In the ancient Near East, gestures of mockery—sticking out the tongue, opening the mouth wide—were recognized signs of contempt toward enemies. This passage reflects the hardening of hearts that occurs when

people persistently reject divine truth, a pattern seen before both the Babylonian exile and throughout redemptive history.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. In what ways do contemporary Christians subtly mock God's word through disobedience?
2. How does persistent rejection of truth lead to spiritual hardening and self-deception?
3. What distinguishes children of God from "children of transgression" according to Scripture?

## Interlinear Text

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מִן־עַל־מֵי־תְּחִטָּה־גַּזְעַת־עַל־מִן־עַל־  
H5921 H4310 Against whom do ye sport H5921 H4310  
H6026

פְּרֹחַ יְבוּן־לְשָׁן־וְלֹא־בְּלֹא־פָּאַר־יְכוֹנֵן־פָּה־  
yourselves against whom make ye a wide mouth and draw out the tongue H3808  
H7337 H6310 H748 H3956

אַתָּה־בְּלֹדִי־שָׁקָרְךָ:־זֶה־בָּעֵד־  
are ye not children of transgression a seed of falsehood H8267  
H859 H3206 H6588 H2233

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Peter 2:13** (Parallel theme): And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

**Isaiah 1:4** (Sin): Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

**Psalms 35:21** (Parallel theme): Yea, they opened their mouth wide against me, and said, Aha, aha, our eye hath seen it.

**Exodus 9:17** (Parallel theme): As yet exaltest thou thyself against my people, that thou wilt not let them go?

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