

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

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

עַל	מִי	תִּתְּעַנּוּ גוֹ	עַל	יְיָ	
H5921	H4310	Against whom do ye sport	H5921	H4310	
		H6026			
	תִּרְחִיבוּ	פִּי הָ	תִּצְאוּ יָכוֹ	לִשׁוֹן	הַלּוֹא
	yourselves against whom make ye a wide	mouth	and draw out	the tongue	H3808
	H7337	H6310	H748	H3956	
אֲתָם	יְלִדֵי	פִּי שֵׁעַ	זֶרַע	שֶׁקֶר:	
H859	are ye not children	of transgression	a seed	of falsehood	
	H3206	H6588	H2233	H8267	

Additional Cross-References

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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