

Isaiah 59:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them;

Analysis

Full confession: 'For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them.' Three terms - transgressions (pesha - rebellion), sins (chata'ah - missing the mark), iniquities (avon - twisted guilt) - comprehensively confess. Sin testifies like a witness.

Historical Context

This confession uses the same vocabulary as the Day of Atonement rituals. Recognition of specific sins is necessary for genuine repentance.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does sin 'testify against' us before God?
2. What does it mean to 'know' your iniquities rather than denying or excusing them?

Interlinear Text

רְבָבָה
H3588 are multiplied פְּשֻׁעַ יְנֻחָה
H7231 H6588 תְּתַתָּךְ בָּם
H5048 before thee and our sins
H2403

תְּגַתֵּתְנָה
testify H0 פְּשֻׁעַ יְנֻחָה
H3588 H6588 אַפְתָנָה
H854

וְעַוּנָתְנָה
are with us and as for our iniquities יְדַעֲנוּם
H5771 we know
H3045

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 9:6 (Parallel theme): And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

Hosea 5:5 (Sin): And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them.

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.

Jeremiah 14:7 (Sin): O LORD, though our iniquities testify against us, do thou it for thy name's sake: for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against thee.

Ezekiel 5:6 (Parallel theme): And she hath changed my judgments into wickedness more than the nations, and my statutes more than the countries that are round about her: for they have refused my judgments and my statutes, they have not walked in them.

Hosea 4:2 (Parallel theme): By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

