

Isaiah 59:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

Analysis

'And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.' Personified virtues are in retreat: judgment turns back, justice stands distant, truth has fallen, equity is barred entry. The Hebrew 'nagas' (approach/enter) shows equity blocked from the public square.

Historical Context

Streets and gates were where justice was administered in ancient Israel. When truth falls there, society collapses. This depicts utter moral breakdown.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does it look like when truth 'falls in the street' in modern society?
2. How can equity be restored where it has been blocked from entering?

Interlinear Text

וְהַטָּה	אַחֲר	מִשְׁפָּט	וְצִדְקָה	מִרְאֵחַ	פָּעָם
is turned away	backward	And judgment	and justice	afar off	standeth
H5253	H268	H4941	H6666	H7350	H3588
כִּי	לֹא	וְנִכְפַּת	אָמֵת	בָּרוּךְ	לְבָוָא:
		ה	תְּהִימָּה	לְכָל הַ	תָּוֹךְ לְ
is fallen	in the street	for truth	and equity	cannot	enter
H3782	H7339	H571	H5229	H3201	H935

Additional Cross-References

Habakkuk 1:4 (Righteousness): Therefore the law is slackened, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.

Isaiah 5:23 (Righteousness): Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!

Isaiah 1:21 (Righteousness): How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.

Jeremiah 5:31 (Parallel theme): The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

Ecclesiastes 3:16 (Righteousness): And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there.

Amos 5:11 (Parallel theme): Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat: ye have built houses of hewn stone,

but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them.

Isaiah 59:4 (Righteousness): None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

Amos 5:7 (Righteousness): Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth,