

Isaiah 59:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Injustice pervades the legal system: 'None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.' The Hebrew 'tohu' (vanity) recalls creation's pre-ordered chaos. The pregnancy metaphor - conceiving mischief, birthing iniquity - shows sin's developmental process.

Historical Context

Courts and public discourse were corrupted. Where truth and justice should have prevailed, lies and injustice multiplied. This mirrors contemporary concerns about systemic injustice.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the pregnancy metaphor illuminate sin's progressive development?
2. What does it look like to 'call for justice' and 'plead for truth' in your context?

Interlinear Text

בְּטַח וְמַם בְּאַמְוֹת הַנִּשְׁאָפָּת נִשְׁאָפָּת כִּי אֵין
H369 None calleth for justice H369 nor any pleadeth for truth H530 they trust
H7121 H6664 H8199 H530 H982

וְהַוְלֵד עַתְּדָתְהָוּ לְדָבָר שְׁוֹאָבְרָא בְּרָזְבָּרְשָׁמְלָעַת
H5921 in vanity and speak lies they conceive mischief and bring forth
H8414 H1696 H7723 H2029 H5999 H3205

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iniquity
H205

Additional Cross-References

Job 15:35 (Parallel theme): They conceive mischief, and bring forth vanity, and their belly prepareth deceit.

James 1:15 (Sin): Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Jeremiah 7:8 (Faith): Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.

Jeremiah 7:4 (Faith): Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these.

Isaiah 30:12 (Faith): Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon:

Proverbs 4:16 (Parallel theme): For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall.

Micah 2:1 (Sin): Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand.

Isaiah 59:16 (Righteousness): And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

Isaiah 59:3 (Sin): For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

Psalms 62:10 (Faith): Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.

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