

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

אֵין	קִלָּא	בְּצַדִּיק	וְאֵין	נִשְׁפָּט	בְּאֱמוּנָה	בָּטוּחַ
H369	None calleth	for justice	H369	nor any pleadeth	for truth	they trust
	H7121	H6664		H8199	H530	H982
עַל	תְּהוֹ	וְדַבֵּר	שֶׁיֹּא	הֵרָו	עָמַל	יְהוֹלִי
H5921	in vanity	and speak	lies	they conceive	mischief	and bring forth
	H8414	H1696	H7723	H2029	H5999	H3205
אִיִּנְיָ:						
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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