

Isaiah 59:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They hatch cockatrice' eggs, and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper.

Analysis

Vivid imagery describes evil's character: hatching cockatrice (venomous serpent) eggs and weaving spider webs. Eating the eggs brings death; crushing them produces vipers. Their webs cannot clothe - evil's products are deadly and useless. The Hebrew 'tsiph'oni' (cockatrice/adder) emphasizes venom.

Historical Context

This natural imagery would resonate with agricultural people. Evil's productions appear substantial but prove deadly (serpent eggs) or insubstantial (spider webs).

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What 'eggs' of evil are being hatched in contemporary culture?
2. How do evil's works prove both deadly and ultimately useless?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶרְגֹּו עַכְבָּר יְשַׁׁבְּכָעָנִי מִבְּצִיכָּם

eggs

H1000

cockatrice

H6848

They hatch

H1234

תְּבַקֵּעַ

H6980

וְקֹרֵא

H5908

וְאֶרְגֹּו

and weave

H707

בָּאֵכֶל

he that eateth

H398

מִבְּצִיכָּם

eggs

H1000

וְמַתְּמִתְּ

dieth

H4191

וְבָזָר הַ

and that which is crushed

H2116

תְּבַקֵּעַ

They hatch

H1234

אֶפְעָרָה:

into a viper

H660

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 3:7 (Parallel theme): But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Isaiah 14:29 (Parallel theme): Rejoice not thou, whole Palestina, because the rod of him that smote thee is broken: for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a cockatrice, and his fruit shall be a fiery flying serpent.

Job 8:14 (Parallel theme): Whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider's web.

Proverbs 23:32 (Parallel theme): At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

Matthew 12:34 (Parallel theme): O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.