

Isaiah 65:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day.

Analysis

'Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day.' The supreme irony: those practicing paganism claim superior holiness! 'Stand back, I'm holier than you.' Such hypocrisy is 'smoke in my nose' (disgusting odor) and 'fire that burneth' (constant irritation). Self-righteousness amid actual sin provokes divine wrath.

Historical Context

This spiritual arrogance while practicing idolatry characterized the religious establishment that rejected prophetic calls to repentance.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does self-righteousness coexist with actual sin?
2. What provokes God more - sin itself or self-righteous sin?

Interlinear Text

הָאֲמָרִים	קֹבַע	אֶל יָד	אֵל	תִּגַּשׁ	כִּי	בִּי
Which say	Stand	H413	H408	by thyself come not near	H0	H3588
H559	H7126			H5066		
קִדְשָׁתִי יָד	אֵל לָהּ		עָשׂוּ	בְּאַפִּי	אֵשׁ	
to me for I am holier	H428	than thou	These are a smoke	in my nose	a fire	
H6942		H6227		H639	H784	
יִקְדָּת	כָּל	הַיּוֹם:				
that burneth	H3605	all the day				
H3344		H3117				

Additional Cross-References

Luke 7:39 (Parallel theme): Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

Proverbs 16:5 (Parallel theme): Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

Deuteronomy 29:20 (Parallel theme): The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven.

Luke 5:30 (Parallel theme): But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?