

Isaiah 9:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Analysis

Universal corruption explains why God shows no mercy—even young men, orphans, and widows (normally protected classes) find no favor. 'Therefore' indicates logical consequence. 'Every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer' declares total corruption. 'Every mouth speaketh folly' shows sin's comprehensive nature—words reveal hearts (Matthew 12:34). The refrain returns: despite this judgment, God's anger continues and His hand remains stretched out. Even severe judgment hasn't accomplished repentance, necessitating further discipline.

Historical Context

By the late 8th century BC, northern Israel was thoroughly corrupt across all social classes. Archaeological evidence shows wealth disparity, exploitation of the poor, and syncretistic religion permeating society. Even widows and orphans—usually objects of divine protection—were corrupted. This comprehensive moral failure justified God's comprehensive judgment. Hosea and Amos also described this total societal corruption during the same period.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does societal corruption reach a point where even normally protected groups participate in evil?
2. What does 'every mouth speaketh folly' teach about the relationship between speech and heart condition?
3. When does God's patience with corporate sin reach its limit and judgment become inevitable?

Interlinear Text

עַל H5921	כִּן H3651	עַל H5921	בְּחֹיֹךְ יוֹ H970	לֹא H3808	יִשְׁמַח H8055	אֲדֹנָי H136
			in their young men		shall have no joy	Therefore the Lord
וְאֶת H853		יִתְמֵי יוֹ H3490	וְאֶת H853	אֶלְמָנוֹתָיו H490	לֹא H3808	יִרְחַם H7355
		on their fatherless		and widows		neither shall have mercy
כִּי H3588	כָּלֹ H3605		חָנֵּף H2611	וְיָמֵר עַ H7489	וְכָל H3605	פֶּה H6310
		for every one is an hypocrite		and an evildoer		and every mouth
דֹּבֵר H1696	הַ H5039	בְּכָל H3605	זֹאת H2063	לֹא H3808	שֶׁ H7725	אֵפֶי H639
speakeeth	folly			is not turned away		For all this his anger
וְעַד H5750	יָדוֹ H3027		נִטְוָה: H5186			
	but his hand	is stretched out still				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 10:6 (Parallel theme): I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

Isaiah 5:25 (References Lord): Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Jeremiah 18:21 (Parallel theme): Therefore deliver up their children to the famine, and pour out their blood by the force of the sword; and let their wives be bereaved of their children, and be widows; and let their men be put to death; let their young men be slain by the sword in battle.

Isaiah 9:12 (Parallel theme): The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Isaiah 27:11 (Grace): When the boughs thereof are withered, they shall be broken off: the women come, and set them on fire: for it is a people of no understanding: therefore he that made them will not have mercy on them, and he that formed them will shew them no favour.

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

Isaiah 10:4 (Parallel theme): Without me they shall bow down under the prisoners, and they shall fall under the slain. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Isaiah 9:21 (Parallel theme): Manasseh, Ephraim; and Ephraim, Manasseh: and they together shall be against Judah. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Psalms 147:10 (Parallel theme): He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man.