

Proverbs 30:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

Analysis

There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes—The second corrupt generation: **ṭāhōr** (תָּהֹר, pure) in **‘ēnāyw** (עַיְלָה, own eyes) is self-righteousness, the most dangerous delusion. **And yet is not washed from their filthiness**—**šō’â** (שֹׁׁאָה, filthiness) is excrement, emphasizing the grotesque gap between self-perception and reality.

This describes the Pharisees whom Jesus condemned as whitewashed tombs (Matthew 23:27)—outwardly righteous but inwardly defiled. Self-deception about sin prevents repentance. Only those who see their filth seek cleansing (1 John 1:8-9). Isaiah's vision of God's holiness exposed his uncleanness (Isaiah 6:5). The Gospel first convicts before it cleanses.

Historical Context

Ritual purity laws in Leviticus distinguished clean from unclean. True purity required both external washing and internal reality. Prophets like Isaiah (1:16) and Jeremiah (4:14) called for heart-cleansing beyond ceremonial washing. Agur sees a generation confusing external appearance with internal reality.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What areas of your life feel 'pure in your own eyes' but might need God's cleansing examination?
2. How does comparing yourself to others rather than to God's holiness enable self-deception?
3. What spiritual practices help maintain honest self-assessment before God who searches the heart?

Interlinear Text

ל	א	וְמִצְאָת	ז	בְּעֵינֵי	וְרָ	טָה	וְרָ	דָּוִר	וְרָ
		מִצְאָת		בְּעֵינֵי		טָה		דָּוִר	
There	is	a	generation	that	are	pure	in	their	own

H1755 H2889 H5869 H6675 H3808

and yet is not washed

H7364

Additional Cross-References

Luke 18:11 (Parallel theme): The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

Proverbs 16:2 (Parallel theme): All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.

Jeremiah 2:35 (Parallel theme): Yet thou sayest, Because I am innocent, surely his anger shall turn from me. Behold, I will plead with thee, because thou sayest, I have not sinned.

2 Timothy 3:5 (Parallel theme): Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Titus 3:5 (Parallel theme): Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Isaiah 65:5 (Parallel theme): 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.

Proverbs 21:2 (Parallel theme): Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.

Luke 16:15 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

Ezekiel 36:25 (Parallel theme): Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Isaiah 1:16 (Parallel theme): Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;