

Psalm 106:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works.

Analysis

This verse describes the consequence of incomplete conquest. 'But were mingled among the heathen' shows Israel mixed with pagan nations rather than remaining separate. 'Mingled' (arab, בָּרָע) means to mix, mingle, or intermingle—the opposite of the separation God commanded. 'And learned their works' shows religious syncretism—Israel adopted pagan practices. This violated the separation principle: God's people are to be holy (set apart) from the world (Leviticus 20:26; 2 Corinthians 6:14-17). The verse teaches that failure to maintain spiritual separation inevitably leads to adopting worldly practices. You become like those you closely associate with.

Historical Context

Throughout Judges and Kings, Israel's mixing with Canaanites led to intermarriage, idolatry, and covenant-breaking. Solomon's foreign wives turned his heart after other gods (1 Kings 11:1-8). The northern kingdom's worship mixed Yahweh with Baal. Judah adopted Assyrian, Babylonian, and Canaanite practices. This mixing eventually led to exile. For post-exilic Israel, this was a warning not to repeat the error by mixing with Samaritans or adopting Persian/Greek practices.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does failure to maintain spiritual separation lead to adopting worldly practices?
2. What does 'learning the works' of unbelievers look like in contemporary church life?
3. How can believers be 'in the world but not of it' without sinful compromise?

Interlinear Text

מְשֻׁרְבָּם: וַיַּלְמֹד וַיַּתְעַרֵּב וַיַּגְוֵד
But were mingled among the heathen and learned their works
H6148 H1471 H3925 H4639

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 15:33 (Parallel theme): Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

1 Corinthians 5:6 (Parallel theme): Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

Isaiah 2:6 (Parallel theme): Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers.

Joshua 15:63 (Parallel theme): As for the Jebusites the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out: but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem unto this day.

