

Psalms 107:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because they rebelled against the words of God, and
contemned the counsel of the most High:

Analysis

This verse explains why they're imprisoned. 'Because they rebelled against the words of God' identifies rebellion as the cause. 'Rebelled' (marah, מָרָה) means to be contentious, rebellious, or bitter against. 'The words of God' (imre El, אֶמְרֵי אֱלֹהִים) are God's commands and covenant stipulations. 'And contemned the counsel of the most High' adds that they despised divine wisdom. 'Contemned' (naats, נָאֹת) means to spurn, treat with contempt, or blaspheme. Their imprisonment was just consequence of despising God's authority. This teaches that rebellion against God's word leads to bondage. Sin doesn't liberate; it imprisons.

Historical Context

Israel's exile resulted from persistent rebellion against God's word through the prophets (2 Kings 17:7-23; Jeremiah 25:3-11). They spurned divine counsel, pursuing idolatry and injustice despite repeated warnings. Exile was covenant curse for covenant-breaking. Individually, rejection of God's word leads to spiritual bondage—we become slaves to sin when we rebel against the One who offers freedom.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does rebellion against God's word lead to bondage rather than freedom?
2. What does it mean to 'contemn the counsel of the most High' in contemporary life?
3. Why do people view God's commands as restrictive when they actually lead to liberty?

Interlinear Text

כִּי הַמְּרָא אָמְרִי אֶל תִּעַצְּטָה
H3588 Because they rebelled against the words of God the counsel
H4784 H561 H410 H6098

עַל וְנִאֵצְעָנָה
H5945 H5006

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 106:43 (Parallel theme): Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity.

Proverbs 1:25 (Parallel theme): But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

Acts 20:27 (References God): For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

Psalms 73:24 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Psalms 78:40 (Parallel theme): How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!

Jeremiah 44:16 (Word): As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not hearken unto thee.

Romans 1:28 (References God): And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Luke 7:30 (Word): But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

2 Chronicles 33:10 (Parallel theme): And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken.

2 Chronicles 36:16 (Word): But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.