

Psalm 12:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things:

Analysis

The prayer that God would 'cut off flattering lips' addresses the sin of deceitful speech. The Hebrew 'chalaq' (flattering/smooth) describes speech designed to manipulate. The 'boastful tongue' that speaks of 'great things' parallels the Antichrist's arrogant claims (Daniel 7:8, Revelation 13:5). Reformed theology sees flattery as theft—stealing glory from God and manipulating others for selfish gain.

Historical Context

Written during a time when false counselors surrounded the king, using smooth words to advance their own interests rather than speaking truth.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How can you discern between genuine encouragement and manipulative flattery?
2. In what ways are you tempted to use words to manipulate rather than minister?

Interlinear Text

לְשָׁוֹן	סְלַקְתִּי	וְתַּחֲנֹן	שְׁפַת	כָּל	וְתַּחֲנֹן	יָכַר	תַּחֲנֹן	יָכַר	תַּחֲנֹן
shall cut off	The LORD	H3605	lips	all flattering	and the tongue				
H3772	H3068		H8193	H2513					H3956
תַּחֲנֹן	מִתְּבָרֵךְ	בְּגִילּוּתְךָ							
that speaketh	proud								
H1696	H1419								

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 18:21 (Parallel theme): Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Revelation 13:5 (Parallel theme): And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Daniel 7:8 (Parallel theme): I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Psalms 17:10 (Parallel theme): They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly.