

Psalm 12:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?

Analysis

The wicked claim autonomy: 'our lips are our own—who is lord over us?' This is the essence of human rebellion—asserting self-sovereignty. The Hebrew 'adon' (lord/master) indicates ownership and authority. This anticipates Romans 1's description of exchanging truth for a lie and refusing to acknowledge God (Romans 1:25, 28). Reformed theology identifies this as the root sin: autonomy replacing theonomy.

Historical Context

Reflects the attitude of powerful figures in Israel who used their position and eloquence for self-advancement, denying accountability to God or king.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. In what areas of life do you subtly claim 'no one is lord over me'?
2. How does acknowledging God's lordship transform your use of words?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה נָא שְׁפַת יְהוָה אַשְׁר ר
H834 Who have said H559 With our tongue H3956 will we prevail H1396 H8193 our lips H853

מִנְחָה אַתָּה לְכָה
H4310 are our own who is lord H113 H0

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 5:2 (References Lord): And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 (Parallel theme): Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Jeremiah 2:31 (References Lord): O generation, see ye the word of the LORD. Have I been a wilderness unto Israel? a land of darkness? wherefore say my people, We are lords; we will come no more unto thee?

Jeremiah 18:18 (Parallel theme): Then said they, Come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.

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