

Psalms 14:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.

Analysis

This rhetorical question exposes the wicked's moral insensitivity—they 'eat up' God's people like bread (thoughtlessly, habitually) and do not call upon God. The Hebrew 'akal' (eat/devour) suggests consuming the poor as casually as one eats food. The parallel between devouring people and not calling on God reveals that prayerlessness and oppression are connected—those who ignore God inevitably harm people.

Historical Context

Written during a time when Israel's leaders and wealthy exploited the poor, treating them as mere resources to be consumed rather than people made in God's image.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does prayerlessness lead to treating people as objects?
2. In what ways do you thoughtlessly consume or exploit others?

Interlinear Text

הָלֹא	יָדְעוּ	כָּל	פֶּעַל י	אֵל	אֵל כָּלֹ
H3808	no knowledge	H3605	Have all the workers	of iniquity	as they eat
	H3045		H6466	H205	H398
עַמִּי	אֵל כָּלֹ	לֶחֶם	! הֵן ה	לֹא	קִרְאוּ:
my people	as they eat	bread	not upon the LORD	H3808	and call
H5971	H398	H3899	H3068		H7121

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 79:6 (Parallel theme): Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name.

Jeremiah 10:25 (Parallel theme): Pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not, and upon the families that call not on thy name: for they have eaten up Jacob, and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his habitation desolate.

Isaiah 64:7 (Parallel theme): And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

Psalms 82:5 (Parallel theme): They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

Romans 1:28 (Parallel theme): 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;

Psalms 27:2 (Parallel theme): When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

Amos 8:4 (Parallel theme): Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail,