

Psalm 16:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips.

Analysis

The sorrows of idolaters 'multiply'—the Hebrew 'rabah' suggests exponential increase. David refuses participation in their worship: no drink offerings of blood, no taking idol names on his lips. This anticipates Paul's instruction to flee idolatry (1 Corinthians 10:14). Reformed theology sees idolatry as the fundamental sin—replacing the Creator with creation—and warns that it enslaves rather than liberates.

Historical Context

Written when surrounded by Canaanite practices including blood sacrifices to false gods. David's absolute separation contrasts with Israel's recurring syncretism condemned by the prophets.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What modern idols multiply sorrows in those who serve them?

2. How vigilant are you about avoiding even verbal association with idolatrous practices?

Interlinear Text

רָבֶּה	עִצּוּבָתֶם	אַחֲרֵי	אַחֲרֵי	מֵתָרָה	וְכֹל	אָסָרָה
shall be multiplied	Their sorrows	after another	that hasten	nor	will I not offer	
H7235	H6094	H312	H4116	H1077	H5258	
נְסִיפָּה מ	מִדָּם	מֵתָרָה	אָשָׁר	אַתָּה	שׁוֹמֵת מ	עַל
god their drink offerings	of blood	nor	take up	H853	their names	H5921
H5262	H1818	H1077	H5375		H8034	
שְׁפָתִים						
into my lips						
						H8193

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 23:13 (References God): And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth.

Joshua 23:7 (References God): That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them:

Psalms 97:7 (References God): Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him, all ye gods.

Psalms 32:10 (Parallel theme): Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.

Jonah 2:8 (Parallel theme): They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

Isaiah 57:6 (Sacrifice): Among the smooth stones of the stream is thy portion; they, they are thy lot: even to them hast thou poured a drink offering, thou hast offered a meat offering. Should I receive comfort in these?

Isaiah 66:3 (Blood): He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations.

Isaiah 65:11 (Sacrifice): But ye are they that forsake the LORD, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a table for that troop, and that furnish the drink offering unto that number.

Genesis 35:14 (Sacrifice): And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him, even a pillar of stone: and he poured a drink offering thereon, and he poured oil thereon.

Leviticus 23:13 (Sacrifice): And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin.