

Psalms 5:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness; their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue.

Analysis

This verse describes the wicked with surgical precision. 'No faithfulness in their mouth' means unreliable speech. 'Their inward part is very wickedness' uses Hebrew 'hawwah' (destruction/ruin), indicating inner corruption. 'Open sepulchre' (throat) suggests deadly speech that spreads death. 'They flatter with their tongue' shows manipulative deception. Paul quotes this verse in Romans 3:13 as evidence of universal human sinfulness. The progression from internal corruption to external expression shows that speech reveals the heart (Matthew 12:34).

Historical Context

This description fits David's enemies who used smooth words while plotting betrayal - Absalom, Ahithophel, and others. The sepulchre imagery would resonate with Jews who understood ritual uncleanness from contact with death. Early Christians saw this fulfilled in the Pharisees whom Jesus called 'whited sepulchres' (Matthew 23:27).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do your words reveal the true condition of your heart?
2. In what ways are you tempted to use flattery or deceptive speech rather than speaking truth in love?

Interlinear Text

בְּפֶתֶן	בְּפֶתֶן	נִכּוֹנָה	לִרְבּוֹן
H3588	H369	in their mouth	For there is no faithfulness
	H6310		H3559
בְּרֵבֶד	קְבָרָה	פָּתָן	גְּרוּנָה
part is very wickedness	sepulchre	is an open	their throat
H1942	H6913	H6605	H1627
לְשׁוֹנָה	לְשׁוֹנָה	לְשׁוֹנָה	לְשׁוֹנָה
they flatter			
H2505			

Additional Cross-References

Romans 3:13 (Parallel theme): Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

Psalms 62:4 (Parallel theme): They only consult to cast him down from his excellency: they delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah.

Micah 6:12 (Parallel theme): For the rich men thereof are full of violence, and the inhabitants thereof have spoken lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.

Proverbs 29:5 (Parallel theme): A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.

Psalms 51:6 (Parallel theme): Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Psalms 52:2 (Parallel theme): Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.

Luke 11:44 (Parallel theme): Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over them are not aware of them.

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