

Psalms 53:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread: they have not called upon God.

Analysis

The ignorant workers of iniquity: 'Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon God.' The question is rhetorical--they should know better but act as if God doesn't see. 'Eating up' God's people as casually as bread indicates contemptuous oppression.

Historical Context

This psalm parallels Psalm 14, with some variations. The oppression of God's people by those who deny His relevance was persistent throughout Israel's history.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What 'knowledge' do the wicked lack or ignore?
2. How does the bread metaphor describe the casualness of their oppression?

Interlinear Text

הָלֹא	יָדְעוּ	פַּעֲלֵי יָ	אֲיִן	אֲכָלוּ	עַמִּי
H3808	no knowledge	Have the workers	of iniquity	as they eat	my people
	H3045	H6466	H205	H398	H5971
אֲכָלוּ	לֶחֶם	אֲלֵהֶם יְיָ	לֹא	קָרְאוּ:	
as they eat	bread	upon God	H3808	they have not called	
H398	H3899	H430		H7121	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 4:22 (Parallel theme): For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.

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.