

Psalms 55:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wickedness is in the midst thereof: deceit and guile depart not from her streets.

Analysis

The Hebrew 'mirmah' (deceit) in the city's midst reveals that wickedness spreads through deception more than open violence. This anticipates Christ's warnings against the leaven of the Pharisees (Matthew 16:6) and Paul's concern for false teachers. Economic oppression ('usury') and judicial corruption ('guile') demonstrate covenant unfaithfulness requiring prophetic denunciation.

Historical Context

The Law prohibited usury among Israelites (Exodus 22:25), making its presence in Jerusalem a covenant violation. The marketplace ('streets') was the center of economic and legal transactions, making wickedness there particularly pernicious.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. In what subtle ways does deceit function in modern economic and political systems?
2. How does the gospel address systemic sin beyond individual conversion?

Interlinear Text

הוֹי־וֹת	בְּקִרְבִּי הִ	וְלֹא	יָמֵי יֵשׁ	יִמְּךָ חֲבִיבִי הִ	תִּנְּךָ
Wickedness	is in the midst	H3808	depart	not from her streets	thereof deceit
H1942	H7130		H4185	H7339	H8496
וּמְרִמָּה:					
and guile					
H4820					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 10:7 (Parallel theme): His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity.