

Psalms 58:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

Analysis

The doctrine of original sin is here poetically expressed: 'The wicked are estranged from the womb.' The Hebrew 'zur' (estranged/alienated) indicates separation from God from conception, not merely from moral accountability. 'Speaking lies' as soon as born is hyperbolic but theologically accurate—the sin nature precedes personal acts of sin. This anticipates Paul's teaching in Romans 5:12-19.

Historical Context

This verse reflects Israel's understanding that sin is inherited and universal, not merely learned behavior. The psalmist's observation connects to the covenant curses for generational iniquity (Exodus 20:5) while pointing toward the need for regeneration.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the doctrine of original sin affect your understanding of human nature and salvation?

2. What is the only remedy for estrangement from God that begins in the womb?

Interlinear Text

ז רַו	רָשָׁע יִם	מִכָּ הֵם	תָּעוּ	מִכָּ טוֹן
are estranged	The wicked	from the womb	they go astray	as soon as they be born
H2114	H7563	H7358	H8582	H990
דִּבֶּר י	קָזַב:			
speaking	lies			
H1696	H3577			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 51:5 (Parallel theme): Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Isaiah 48:8 (Parallel theme): Yea, thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time that thine ear was not opened: for I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb.

Proverbs 22:15 (Parallel theme): Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Ephesians 2:3 (Parallel theme): Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.