

Psalm 58:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely.

Analysis

Continuing the serpent metaphor, the 'voice of charmers' represents attempts to move the hardened through human wisdom or eloquence. That the adder refuses 'charming never so wisely' demonstrates that judicial hardening makes one immune to persuasion. Only God's sovereign regeneration can overcome such hardness (John 3:3-8), as human means prove insufficient.

Historical Context

The image reflects the reality that some remained hardened despite David's righteous rule and prophetic ministry. This anticipates Israel's pattern of rejecting prophets, culminating in rejecting Christ despite His perfect wisdom and mighty works.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does the futility of 'charming' the hardened teach about evangelism's dependence on God's Spirit?

2. How should recognition of judicial hardening affect your perseverance in speaking truth?

Interlinear Text

רֹאשׁ אֲשֶׁר לֹא שָׁמַע ! וְלֹא לְקַנְתָּן יְמִינָה מְלִכָּשׁ רֹבֵחַ

H834 H3808 Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers charming

H8085 H6963 H3907 H2266

מִחְכָּמָה: יְמִינָה
H2267 never so wisely
H2449

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 8:17 (Parallel theme): For, behold, I will send serpents, cockatrices, among you, which will not be charmed, and they shall bite you, saith the LORD.

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