

Psalms 62:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They only consult to cast him down from his excellency: they delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah.

Analysis

Enemies' counsel to 'cast him down from his excellency' indicates assault on David's position/dignity. 'Delight in lies... bless with their mouth but curse inwardly' reveals duplicity—public honor masking private hostility. This anticipates warnings against those who honor God with lips while hearts remain far (Isaiah 29:13, Matthew 15:8), showing that hypocrisy characterized God's enemies from ancient times.

Historical Context

This likely describes courtiers who outwardly honored David while plotting with Absalom or others. Ancient Near Eastern court intrigue often involved public obeisance concealing private conspiracy.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How can you discern between genuine honor and flattery masking hostility?
2. What does the linkage between lies and inward cursing teach about the unity of truth and blessing?

Interlinear Text

אֵל	מְשָׁאֵת וּן	יַעֲצוּ	לְהַדִּים	יִרְצוּ	
H389	from his excellency	They only consult	to cast him down	they delight	
	H7613	H3289	H5080	H7521	
בְּ	בִּפְּיוֹ	יְבָרֵכוּ	וּ בְקִרְבָּם	יִקְלְלוּ	סֵלָה:
in lies	with their mouth	they bless	inwardly	but they curse	Selah
H3577	H6310	H1288	H7130	H7043	H5542

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 55:21 (Parallel theme): The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.

Psalms 28:3 (Parallel theme): Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbours, but mischief is in their hearts.

Psalms 5:9 (Parallel theme): 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.

Romans 7:22 (Light): For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

Revelation 22:15 (Parallel theme): For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Romans 1:32 (Parallel theme): Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

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