

Psalms 73:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.

Analysis

The wicked 'corrupt' others through their speech, speaking 'wickedly concerning oppression' from their lofty position. They use rhetorical skill to justify exploitation and pervert justice. Speaking 'loftily' indicates arrogant confidence that their power immunizes them from consequences. This describes corrupt leaders who twist language to legitimize injustice. Yet God hears every word (Matthew 12:36) and will judge those who use speech to harm rather than heal.

Historical Context

Prophets consistently condemned leaders who used eloquent speech to justify oppression (Isaiah 10:1-2, Micah 2:1-2). Corruption often hides behind sophisticated rhetoric and legal maneuvering.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you recognize when persuasive speech is being used to justify injustice?

2. What responsibility do Christians have to speak truth to power that corrupts through words?
3. How can you ensure your speech builds up rather than corrupts or oppresses others?

Interlinear Text

מִנְּרָם	עַל	בְּעֵבֶד	יְמִינָה	וְיִמְנָה
They are corrupt	and speak	wickedly	concerning oppression	loftily
H4167	H1696	H7451	H6233	H4791
and speak				
H1696				

Additional Cross-References

Jude 1:16 (Parallel theme): These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

Psalms 17:10 (Parallel theme): They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly.

Psalms 10:2 (Evil): The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.

2 Peter 2:18 (Parallel theme): For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

2 Peter 2:10 (Evil): But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.