

Psalm 73:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

Analysis

Setting their mouth 'against the heavens' means blaspheming God directly. Their tongue 'walketh through the earth' suggests pervasive influence—their evil speech spreads everywhere. This describes comprehensive rebellion: vertical (against God) and horizontal (corrupting society). Their words violate both tables of the law. Yet God's truth will ultimately silence all blasphemy (Revelation 21:8), and every tongue will confess Christ's lordship (Philippians 2:11).

Historical Context

Totalitarian regimes throughout history exemplify this pattern: official atheism or idolatry (mouths against heaven) combined with propaganda corrupting entire societies (tongues walking through earth).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you respond to cultural blasphemy and mockery of God without becoming bitter or vengeful?

2. What does it mean that wicked speech 'walks through the earth'—how does evil influence spread?
3. How can Christians speak truth in societies where mouths are set against heaven?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁתָּה בְּשָׁמָּה יְמִינָה וְלְשׂוֹן מִתְפַּלֵּן

They set against the heavens their mouth and their tongue walketh

H8371

H8064

H6310

H3956

H1980

בְּאָרֶץ:

through the earth

H776

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 13:6 (Parallel theme): And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

James 3:6 (Parallel theme): And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

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