

Psalm 94:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How long shall they utter and speak hard things? and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves?

Analysis

The imagery of speech gushing forth (naba—pour out, bubble up) depicts unrestrained arrogant talk. 'Hard things' (atak) refers to insolent, presumptuous speech against God and His people. The self-aggrandizement of 'all the workers of iniquity' (po'ale aven) boasting themselves (yit'amaru) shows the connection between evil deeds and arrogant speech. This verse identifies verbal pride—boasting, blasphemy, and presumptuous talk—as evidence of deeper wickedness. James 3:5-6 echoes this concern about the tongue's destructive power.

Historical Context

Oppressive rulers often justified their actions through propaganda and self-exaltation, a pattern visible from ancient empires to modern totalitarian regimes.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the speech of those around you reveal their hearts toward God and righteousness?

2. What controls your tongue—humility before God or self-promotion?

Interlinear Text

יְבָרֶךְ	יְבָרֶךְ	וְיִבְרֶךְ	עֲתָקָה	כָּל	כָּל
How long shall they utter	and speak	hard things	boast		H3605
H5042	H1696	H6277	H559		
גְּעִילָה	אַיִלָּה				
and all the workers	of iniquity				
H6466	H205				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 31:18 (Parallel theme): Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.

Psalms 52:1 (Parallel theme): Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? the goodness of God endureth continually.

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