

Isaiah 1:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Analysis

The stark alternative—'devoured with the sword'—underscores covenant curses for rebellion (Leviticus 26:25; Deuteronomy 28:49-52). The phrase 'the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it' authenticates the prophecy with divine authority, guaranteeing its fulfillment. God's word is performative; His decrees accomplish their purpose (Isaiah 55:11). This warns that persistent covenant unfaithfulness invites divine judgment, a theme fulfilled in the Babylonian exile.

Historical Context

Within decades, Assyria would devastate Judah (701 BC), and Babylon would later complete the judgment (586 BC). Isaiah's prophecy proved tragically accurate, vindicating God's faithfulness to both promise and warning.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty of God's word shape our response to both His promises and warnings?

2. What modern forms of rebellion might invite divine discipline in our lives or churches?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵם	וְאֵם	תִּמְאֵן	וְמִרְתֵּת	מִ	רָב	רָב	תַּאֲכֵל	תַּאֲכֵל	כִּי
H518	But if ye refuse		and rebel		with the sword		ye shall be devoured		H3588
	H3985		H4784		H2719		H398		
דְּבָרָה	דְּבָרָה	הִנֵּה	הִנֵּה	הַ					
for the mouth	for the mouth	of the LORD	of the LORD	hath spoken					
H6310		H3068		H1696					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 58:14 (References Lord): Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Isaiah 65:12 (Word): Therefore will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not.

Isaiah 40:5 (References Lord): And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Numbers 23:19 (Parallel theme): God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Isaiah 3:25 (Word): Thy men shall fall by the sword, and thy mighty in the war.

Isaiah 3:11 (Parallel theme): Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

Leviticus 26:33 (Word): And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

Micah 4:4 (References Lord): But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.

Titus 1:2 (Parallel theme): In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

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