

Isaiah 1:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the LORD shall be consumed.

Analysis

The contrasting fate of the repentant (v. 27) versus 'transgressors and sinners'—who face destruction—underscores the binary outcome of covenant relationship. The phrase 'they that forsake the LORD' identifies the damned not as those who never knew God but apostates who abandoned covenant commitment. This warns against presuming on covenant status without persevering faith (Hebrews 10:26-31). Reformed theology sees this as evidencing that true elect faith perseveres, while spurious profession falls away (1 John 2:19).

Historical Context

Many in Judah presumed that temple presence and Abrahamic descent guaranteed security (Jeremiah 7:4), yet Isaiah warns that covenant unfaithfulness brings consumption, not protection.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do we distinguish genuine faith from mere external association with God's people?
2. What warning does this verse sound against presumption on religious heritage or past experience?

Interlinear Text

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| וְאֶת־בָּרָא | פָּשָׁע־עַמּוֹ | וְמַפְּאָה־עַמּוֹ | וְעַתְּדָה־עַמּוֹ |
| And the destruction | of the transgressors | and of the sinners | shall be together |
| H7667 | H6586 | H2400 | H3162 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| וְעַזְבָּה | וְהַיְהִי | כַּלְבָּה |
| and they that forsake | the LORD | shall be consumed |
| H5800 | H3068 | H3615 |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 1:6 (References Lord): For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Revelation 21:8 (Parallel theme): But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Isaiah 30:13 (Sin): Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant.

Job 31:3 (Sin): Is not destruction to the wicked? and a strange punishment to the workers of iniquity?