

Isaiah 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

Analysis

The doctrine of the remnant appears here for the first time in Isaiah, a theme central to his theology. The Hebrew 'sarid' (remnant) emphasizes survivors preserved by grace. The comparison to Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19) invokes total divine judgment, making the preservation of even a small remnant evidence of pure mercy, not merit.

Historical Context

The 'LORD of hosts' (Yahweh Sabaoth) title emphasizes God's sovereignty over heavenly and earthly armies. Only His restraint prevented Judah's complete annihilation during the Assyrian crisis.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Do you recognize that your spiritual survival is entirely due to God's preserving grace?

2. How does the doctrine of the remnant comfort you regarding the church's future?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	הִתְהַלֵּל	וְאַתָּה	אָמַרְתָּ	לֹא	לֹא	שְׁרֵיד	כָּמַעַט
Except	the LORD	of hosts	had left	⁹⁰		remnant	unto us a very small
H3884	H3068	H6635	H3498			H8300	H4592
מְפָקֵד	מִן	כִּי	הַלְאֵם	ה		מִמְּנָה	כִּי
as Sodom	we should have been	unto Gomorrah	and we should have been like				
H5467	H1961	H6017	H1819				

Additional Cross-References

Romans 9:29 (References Lord): And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.

Genesis 19:24 (References Lord): Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

Lamentations 3:22 (References Lord): It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

Isaiah 6:13 (Parallel theme): But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof.

Isaiah 17:6 (References Lord): Yet gleaning grapes shall be left in it, as the shaking of an olive tree, two or three berries in the top of the uppermost bough, four or five in the outmost fruitful branches thereof, saith the LORD God of Israel.

Isaiah 24:13 (Parallel theme): When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people, there shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is done.

Isaiah 37:4 (References Lord): It may be the LORD thy God will hear the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living

God, and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that is left.

Genesis 18:32 (References Lord): And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

Amos 4:11 (References Lord): I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org