

Isaiah 10:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day;

Analysis

The 'light of Israel' and 'his Holy One' both refer to God, who becomes 'a fire' and 'a flame' to consume Assyria. The reference to burning 'his thorns and his briers' echoes earlier judgment imagery (9:18). 'In one day' emphasizes suddenness—comprehensive judgment executed swiftly. This demonstrates God's dual nature toward humanity: light and life to His people, consuming fire to His enemies. The same holy God who saves also judges. His holiness demands both.

Historical Context

Fulfilled when 185,000 Assyrian soldiers died 'in one night' (Isaiah 37:36; 2 Kings 19:35). What seemed impossible—destroying a massive army without battle—God accomplished in hours. The phrase 'in one day' wasn't hyperbole but literal prediction. This miracle vindicated God's sovereignty and demonstrated His power to protect His people while judging their enemies.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How is God simultaneously light to His people and consuming fire to His enemies?
2. What does the 'one day' destruction teach about God's ability to accomplish what seems impossible?
3. How should God's holiness produce both comfort (for believers) and fear (for unbelievers)?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה הָאֵשׁ H1961	אֶת הָאֵשׁ H216	יִשְׂרָאֵל H3478	לֹא שָׁמִיר H784	וְקֹדֶשׁ הוּא H6918	לִלְהֹבֶה הָאֵשׁ H3852
and it shall burn	and devour	his thorns	and his briers	day	in one
H1197	H398	H7898	H8068	H3117	H259

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 27:4 (Parallel theme): Fury is not in me: who would set the briers and thorns against me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together.

Isaiah 37:23 (Holy): Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.

Jeremiah 4:4 (Parallel theme): Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.

Jeremiah 7:20 (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, mine anger and my fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.

Nahum 1:10 (Parallel theme): For while they be folden together as thorns, and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.

Numbers 16:35 (Parallel theme): And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.

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