

Isaiah 10:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation which shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory?

Analysis

Rhetorical questions expose the foolishness of the unjust. 'What will ye do in the day of visitation?' asks how they'll respond when judgment comes. 'In the desolation which shall come from far' references the Assyrian invasion. 'To whom will ye flee for help?' and 'where will ye leave your glory?' highlight the futility of trusting in wealth and power when God judges. The questions imply obvious answers: nowhere to run, no help available, glory lost. This demonstrates sin's shortsightedness—it ignores future judgment.

Historical Context

Fulfilled when Assyria invaded (722 BC for Israel, 701 BC for Judah). The wealthy and powerful who had accumulated unjust gain found it all worthless when armies came. They couldn't bribe Assyrian soldiers or flee to safety. Their 'glory' (wealth, status, power) was plundered or left behind. The 'visitation from far' was Assyria, God's instrument coming from Mesopotamia to execute judgment.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty of future judgment expose the folly of present injustice and greed?
2. What false securities do we tend to trust in that will prove worthless on judgment day?
3. How should awareness of coming judgment shape our present ethical decisions?

Interlinear Text

וְמָה H4100	תַּעֲשׂוּ H6213	לִי וּם H3117	פְּקֻדָּהּ H6486	וּלְשׁוֹאָה H7722	
	And what will ye do	in the day	of visitation	and in the desolation	
מִמְּרָחֵק H4801	תָּבֹא וְא H935	עַל H5921	מִי H4310	תֵּבַח וְסוֹ H5127	לְעֶזְרָה H5833
	from far	which shall come		to whom will ye flee	for help
וְאֵי H575	תַּעֲזֹב ו H5800	כְּבוֹדְכֶם: H3519			
	and where will ye leave	your glory			

Additional Cross-References

Luke 19:44 (Parallel theme): And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

Hosea 9:7 (Parallel theme): The days of visitation are come, the days of recompence are come; Israel shall know it: the prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad, for the multitude of thine iniquity, and the great hatred.

Job 31:14 (Parallel theme): What then shall I do when God riseth up? and when he visiteth, what shall I answer him?

Isaiah 20:6 (Parallel theme): And the inhabitant of this isle shall say in that day, Behold, such is our expectation, whither we flee for help to be delivered from the king of Assyria: and how shall we escape?

Isaiah 5:26 (Parallel theme): And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly:

Isaiah 26:21 (Parallel theme): For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

Proverbs 11:4 (Parallel theme): Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

1 Peter 2:12 (Parallel theme): Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Zephaniah 1:18 (Parallel theme): Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

Deuteronomy 28:49 (Parallel theme): The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;