

Isaiah 13:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

Analysis

Cosmic signs accompany divine judgment: 'the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.' This apocalyptic language appears throughout Scripture (Joel 2:10; Matthew 24:29; Revelation 6:12-13). It can be understood literally (cosmic disturbances), symbolically (political/social upheaval), or both. The darkening of celestial bodies represents the overthrow of established order—what seemed permanent and stable (like the heavens) proves temporary and shakeable. When God judges, even the cosmos responds.

Historical Context

Ancient peoples viewed celestial bodies as symbols of stability, order, and divine governance. Many ancient religions deified sun, moon, and stars. For these lights to go dark was unthinkable—yet that's precisely Isaiah's point. What seems permanent is not; what seems unshakeable can be shaken. Babylon seemed eternal—yet fell. Whether this language is literal (cosmic signs), figurative (political upheaval so complete it's like celestial darkening), or both, the message is clear: nothing escapes God's judgment. The New Testament applies similar language to Christ's return (Matthew 24:29).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What in your world seems as permanent and unchangeable as the stars—yet stands under God's judgment?
2. How does apocalyptic language serve to communicate the magnitude of God's intervention in history?

Interlinear Text

בְּ	כֹּקְבָּרִים	בְּשָׁמָם	וְכֹסֶלֶת	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא
H3588	For the stars	of heaven	and the constellations	H3808	thereof shall not give	
	H3556	H8064	H3685			H1984
אוֹרָה	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	
shall not cause her light	shall be darkened	the sun	in his going forth			
H216	H2821	H8121	H3318			
אוֹרָה	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	
and the moon	to shine	shall not cause her light				
H3394	H3808	H5050	H216			

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 24:29 (Light): Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Mark 13:24 (Light): But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

Joel 2:31 (Darkness): The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

Revelation 8:12 (Darkness): And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

Isaiah 5:30 (Light): And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if one look unto the land, behold darkness and sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof.

Luke 21:25 (Parallel theme): And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

Joel 3:15 (Darkness): The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

Isaiah 24:23 (Parallel theme): Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

Joel 2:10 (Darkness): The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: