

Isaiah 13:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

Analysis

God declares He will 'punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity.' The judgment extends beyond Babylon to universal scope—'the world.' Specific targets: pride of the arrogant, haughtiness of the terrible (violent oppressors). This demonstrates that while historical judgments target specific nations (Babylon), they represent principles of universal judgment. God opposes pride and wickedness everywhere. No nation, however powerful, escapes accountability for evil.

Historical Context

While immediately applicable to Babylon, this verse establishes God's pattern of judging all wicked nations. Throughout history, God has humbled proud empires—Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and modern powers. The principle persists: God opposes the proud, judges wickedness universally. Final fulfillment comes at Christ's return when all evil is permanently judged. Babylon's judgment was microcosm of God's comprehensive opposition to evil.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do judgments on specific nations reveal universal principles of divine justice?
2. What does God's consistent opposition to pride teach about His character?
3. How should we as individuals and nations avoid the pride that provokes divine judgment?

Interlinear Text

וּפָקַדְתִּי י' And I will punish H6485	עַל H5921	תִּבְלֵ the world H8398	רָעָה for their evil H7451	וְעַל H5921	רִשְׁעֵי יִם and the wicked H7563
עֲוֹנָם for their iniquity H5771	וְהִשְׁבַּתִּי to cease H7673	גָּא וְ and I will cause the H1347	אֲרִיזוֹת of the proud H2086		
וְגִאֲוֹת the haughtiness H1346	עֲרִיצֵי יִם of the terrible H6184	אֲשַׁפִּיל: and will lay low H8213			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 2:11 (Parallel theme): The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Isaiah 5:15 (Parallel theme): And the mean man shall be brought down, and the mighty man shall be humbled, and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled: