

Isaiah 14:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Analysis

'Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.' Dramatic reversal: the one who would 'ascend above the heights' is 'brought down' to the lowest depths. 'Hell' (Sheol) and 'sides/depths of the pit' (bor—can mean grave, pit, cistern, or Sheol's deepest regions) represent ultimate degradation. The contrast is absolute: highest aspiration vs. lowest reality, upward striving vs. downward descent, self-exaltation vs. divine abasement. This is God's response to pride: 'Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased' (Luke 14:11). No one successfully rivals God; all who try are cast down. This applies to Satan, to Babylonian kings, to all who rebel—and warns us all.

Historical Context

The prophecy was fulfilled historically when Babylonian power ended (539 BC) and its kings died ignominiously. Belshazzar was killed the night Babylon fell (Daniel 5:30). If the passage also references Satan's fall (as many interpreters believe), it describes his casting down from heaven (Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:9) and ultimate consignment to the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10). The 'pit' language also appears in Ezekiel 28:8 regarding the king of Tyre (another proud ruler), suggesting this is a pattern: pride leads to fall, self-exaltation to abasement, rebellion to judgment.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the pattern of pride-before-fall warn us personally about our own hearts and ambitions?
2. What does this verse teach about the absolute certainty that God will humble all proud opposition?

Interlinear Text

בָּרוּךְ תַּרְכְּתִי אֶל שָׁא וְלֹא אֶל כִּי תַּעֲמִיד דְּלֵךְ תְּמֻתָּה אֶל יְמִינָה וְלֹא יְמִינָה בְּזָהָר
H389 H413 to hell Yet thou shalt be brought down H3381 H413 to the sides H3411 of the pit H953

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 11:23 (Parallel theme): And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

Ezekiel 32:23 (Parallel theme): Whose graves are set in the sides of the pit, and her company is round about her grave: all of them slain, fallen by the sword, which caused terror in the land of the living.

Revelation 19:20 (Parallel theme): And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Luke 10:15 (Parallel theme): And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell.