

Isaiah 14:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

What shall one then answer the messengers of the nation?
That the LORD hath founded Zion, and the poor of his people
shall trust in it.

Analysis

'What shall one then answer the messengers of the nation? That the LORD hath founded Zion, and the poor of his people shall trust in it.' Philistine messengers (possibly seeking alliance or gauging Judah's response) ask about security. Isaiah's answer: Zion's security rests not on military might or political alliances but on divine foundation—'the LORD hath founded Zion.' Because God established Jerusalem, it stands firm. The 'poor of his people' (often Israel's self-designation, emphasizing dependence on God rather than wealth/power) trust in this divine foundation, not human schemes. This is the proper ground of confidence: God's work and promise, not human strength. Zion survives not because of her power but because of her Founder.

Historical Context

Throughout Isaiah, Zion/Jerusalem represents not just a city but God's dwelling place and His people. God's foundational work (Psalm 87:1, 5) guarantees Zion's security—ultimately. Historically, Jerusalem survived Assyrian siege (701 BC) miraculously but later fell to Babylon (586 BC), then was rebuilt. The point isn't that earthly Jerusalem never falls but that God's purposes for Zion ultimately prevail. For Christians, Zion is the church, the new Jerusalem, founded by Christ (Matthew 16:18). Gates of hell will not prevail against it. The 'poor of his people' are believers who trust not in themselves but in God's unshakeable foundation.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does trusting that 'the LORD hath founded Zion' provide confidence when circumstances seem threatening?
2. What does it mean to be among the 'poor of his people' who trust in God's foundation rather than human strength or wisdom?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה

H4100

What shall one then answer

H6030

Psalms 87:5 (Parallel theme): And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her.

Psalms 87:1 (Parallel theme): His foundation is in the holy mountains.

James 2:5 (Faith): Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

Zephaniah 3:12 (Faith): I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD.

Isaiah 25:4 (Parallel theme): For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.

Isaiah 4:6 (Parallel theme): And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.

Isaiah 28:16 (Faith): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Isaiah 44:28 (Parallel theme): That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

Isaiah 39:1 (Parallel theme): At that time Merodach-baladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah: for he had heard that he had been sick, and was recovered.