

Isaiah 16:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness.

Analysis

"In mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness." This Messianic prophecy interrupts the Moab oracle with hope. The Davidic throne will be established "in mercy" (chesed—covenant love) and "in truth" (emet—faithfulness). The ruler's reign manifests judging (righteous governance), seeking judgment (pursuing justice), and hasting righteousness (swift execution of right). Reformed eschatology sees Christ fulfilling this—the true Son of David whose reign perfectly manifests mercy, truth, justice, and righteousness.

Historical Context

This prophecy references the Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7) promising an eternal throne. By Isaiah's time, Davidic monarchy faced serious threats—the northern kingdom had fallen (722 BCE), Judah faced Assyrian pressure. Yet God promises the ultimate Davidic king. The New Testament identifies Jesus as this fulfillment (Luke 1:32-33; Acts 15:16-17), whose eternal reign transcends temporal political turmoil.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does this Messianic prophecy provide hope amid judgment oracles?
2. What does it mean that Christ's throne is established in mercy yet characterized by perfect justice?
3. How does Christ's reign fulfill judging, seeking judgment, and hastening righteousness?

Interlinear Text

וְהִכְלִיל	בְּמִסְדָּר	בְּכִסְאֵ	יְשִׁיבָה	יְשִׁיבָה
be established	And in mercy	shall the throne	and he shall sit	H5921
H3559	H2617	H3678	H3427	
בְּאָמֵת תִּהְיֶה	בְּאֹהֶל	בְּדִין	שְׁפָט	מִשְׁפָט
upon it in truth	in the tabernacle	of David	judging	and seeking
H571	H168	H1732	H8199	H1875
וְמִתְהַלֵּךְ	צְדָקָה			
and hastening	righteousness			
H4106	H6664			H4941

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 7:14 (Kingdom): And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Micah 4:7 (Kingdom): And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.

Daniel 7:27 (Kingdom): And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Zechariah 9:9 (Righteousness): Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Proverbs 20:28 (Grace): Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.

2 Samuel 7:16 (Kingdom): And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.