

Isaiah 17:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips:

Analysis

'Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips.' The indictment is clear: forgetting God despite His salvation. The title 'God of thy salvation' recalls exodus deliverance—Israel forgot their Redeemer. 'Rock of thy strength' emphasizes God as foundation, refuge, source of security. Yet they plant 'pleasant plants' and 'strange slips' (foreign vine cuttings)—likely referring to fertility cult practices involving sacred gardens and foreign religious practices. They cultivate beautiful but spiritually deadly imports rather than trusting their Rock. This illustrates the exchange of glory (true God) for worthless idols (Romans 1:23).

Historical Context

Archaeological evidence reveals widespread syncretism in pre-exilic Israel, including cultic gardens associated with fertility worship. The 'pleasant plants' and 'strange slips' likely refer to gardens dedicated to Adonis or other dying-and-rising vegetation deities popular in Syria-Palestine. These involved ritualized planting and mourning in supposed fertility magic. Jeremiah and Ezekiel also condemn such practices. The irony is profound: seeking agricultural prosperity through fertility cults while forgetting the God who controls rain, seasons, and harvests. Israel exchanged the substance (true God) for shadows (ineffective rituals).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does 'forgetting the God of thy salvation' reveal about the human tendency toward spiritual amnesia?
2. How do 'pleasant plants' and 'strange slips' illustrate the appeal of false religion?
3. In what ways do people today exchange the true God for attractive but spiritually deadly alternatives?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	שָׁכַחְתָּ	אֱלֹהֵי	יֵשׁוּעַ	וְצוּר
H3588	Because thou hast forgotten	the God	of thy salvation	of the rock
	H7911	H430	H3468	H6697
מַעַזְרֶיךָ	לֹא	זָכַרְתָּ	עַל	כִּי
of thy strength	H3808	and hast not been mindful	H5921	H3651
H4581		H2142		
תִּטְעֵי	נֹטְעֵי	נְעִימִים	וְזַמְרֵת	זָרָה
therefore shalt thou plant	plants	pleasant	slips	it with strange
H5193	H5194	H5282	H2156	H2114
תִּזְרְעֵנָהּ				
and shalt set				
H2232				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 26:4 (Parallel theme): Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

Jeremiah 2:32 (Parallel theme): Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number.

Deuteronomy 32:18 (References God): Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.

Psalms 106:21 (Salvation): They forgat God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;

Deuteronomy 32:4 (References God): He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

Isaiah 12:2 (Salvation): Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

Isaiah 51:13 (Parallel theme): And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?

Psalms 106:13 (Parallel theme): They soon forgat his works; they waited not for his counsel:

Psalms 85:4 (Salvation): Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger toward us to cease.

Jeremiah 17:13 (Parallel theme): O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.