

Isaiah 18:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For so the LORD said unto me, I will take my rest, and I will consider in my dwelling place like a clear heat upon herbs, and like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.

Analysis

'For so the LORD said unto me, I will take my rest, and I will consider in my dwelling place like a clear heat upon herbs, and like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.' God speaks of calmly observing from His dwelling place—divine rest doesn't mean inaction but sovereign confidence. The similes describe God's watchful presence: 'clear heat upon herbs' (warm sunlight nurturing growth) and 'cloud of dew in harvest heat' (refreshing moisture in dry season). God oversees events with providential care, neither anxious nor inactive. His rest demonstrates absolute control—He doesn't frantically respond to crises but works all things according to His purposes. This illustrates Reformed theology's doctrine of divine providence: God's sovereign, purposeful governance of all events according to His eternal plan.

Historical Context

The agricultural imagery would resonate with ancient audiences—sunlight and dew were understood as essential for crops. Clear heat nurtures growth; dew provides moisture in dry seasons. The harvest season metaphor suggests God observes while events ripen to the appointed time for His intervention. Historically, this describes the period between Ethiopian diplomatic overtures and divine action—God apparently passive while actually sovereignly directing all events toward His purposes. The 701 BCE deliverance occurred at the moment God chose, neither

too early nor late. This demonstrates divine timing's perfection—He acts at the optimal moment for accomplishing His purposes.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does God's 'rest' teach about divine sovereignty not requiring anxious activity?
2. How do the agricultural metaphors illustrate God's providential care and perfect timing?
3. Why is understanding God's apparent passivity as actually sovereign direction important for faith?

Interlinear Text

H3588	For so	said	the LORD	H413	unto me I will take my rest	H8252
H3541	H559	H3068				
H5027	and I will consider	in my dwelling place	heat	H6703	like a clear	H216
H2919	H4349	H2527	H7105	H5921	upon herbs	
H5645	and like a cloud	of dew	heat			

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 5:15 (Parallel theme): I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.

Isaiah 26:21 (References Lord): For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

Isaiah 18:7 (References Lord): In that time shall the present be brought unto the LORD of hosts of a people scattered and peeled, and from a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden under foot, whose land the rivers have spoiled, to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, the mount Zion.

Isaiah 14:32 (References Lord): 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.

Isaiah 12:6 (Parallel theme): Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

2 Samuel 23:4 (Parallel theme): And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.