

Isaiah 18:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

'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.' After judgment comes worship—Ethiopia brings tribute to Jerusalem's temple. The same descriptions from verse 2 now characterize worshippers rather than diplomats. This eschatological vision sees Ethiopia acknowledging Yahweh's sovereignty, bringing gifts to Mount Zion. This fulfills promises that nations will worship Israel's God (Isaiah 2:2-3; 60:3-7; Psalm 68:31). Reformed eschatology sees partial historical fulfillment (Ethiopian eunuch's conversion, Acts 8:26-39) and complete fulfillment when all nations worship Christ (Philippians 2:10-11; Revelation 7:9).

Historical Context

Historically, some Ethiopians did convert to Judaism, including the Ethiopian dynasty claiming descent from Solomon and Sheba. The Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8 demonstrates early Christian penetration into Ethiopia. Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity remains one of the world's oldest continuous Christian communities (since 4th century CE). The prophecy's fulfillment demonstrates God's redemptive

purposes transcend judgment—even nations experiencing divine discipline ultimately participate in worship. Archaeological evidence includes Ethiopian pilgrims to Jerusalem in various periods. The vision anticipates global worship beyond ethnic boundaries, prefiguring the multi-ethnic Church.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Ethiopia's transformation from diplomat to worshipper demonstrate redemptive judgment?
2. What does this teach about God's ultimate purposes being salvation, not merely judgment?
3. How did the Ethiopian eunuch's conversion (Acts 8) partially fulfill this prophecy?

Interlinear Text

בַּעֵת	הֵהָ יָא	יָבֵל	שִׁי	יְהוָה	צָבָא וְת
In that time	H1931	be brought	shall the present	of the LORD	of hosts
H6256		H2986	H7862	H3068	H6635
וּמֵעַם	מִמֶּשֶׁךְ	וּמוֹכֵס	וּמֵעַם	נוֹכָא	מִן
and from a people	scattered	and peeled	and from a people	terrible	
H5971	H4900	H4178	H5971	H3372	H4480
					H1931
וְהָ לְאָה	גּוֹיִן	קָו	קָו	וּמְבוֹסָה	
from their beginning hitherto	a nation	H0	meted out	and trodden under foot	
H1973	H1471		H6978	H4001	
אֶשֶׁר	בָּזָא וְ	נְהָרִים	אֶרֶץ וְ	אֶל	מָקוֹם
H834	have spoiled	the rivers	whose land	H413	to the place
	H958	H5104	H776		H4725
					H8034
יְהוָה	צָבָא וְת	הָר	צִיּוֹן:		
of the LORD	of hosts	the mount	Zion		
H3068	H6635	H2022	H6726		

Additional Cross-References

Zephaniah 3:10 (Parallel theme): From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.

Isaiah 45:14 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, saying, Surely God is in thee; and there is none else, there is no God.

Isaiah 18:4 (References Lord): 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.

2 Chronicles 32:23 (References Lord): And many brought gifts unto the LORD to Jerusalem, and presents to Hezekiah king of Judah: so that he was magnified in the sight of all nations from thenceforth.

Isaiah 16:1 (Parallel theme): Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion.

Malachi 1:11 (References Lord): For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.

Micah 4:13 (References Lord): Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will consecrate their gain unto the LORD, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth.