

Isaiah 2:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

Analysis

Terrified humanity hides in caves and holes from God's majestic arising—reversing Eden where Adam hid from God's presence (Genesis 3:8). The 'terror of the LORD' and 'glory of his majesty' describe theophanic judgment when God manifests His presence to 'shake terribly the earth.' This anticipates Revelation 6:15-17 where earth-dwellers cry for rocks to hide them from the Lamb's wrath. The futility of hiding from omnipresent deity (Psalm 139:7-12) underscores that only refuge in Christ, not from Him, provides safety.

Historical Context

Judah's mountainous terrain offered caves for hiding (1 Samuel 13:6), but physical concealment can't evade divine judgment. The imagery warns that no earthly refuge exists apart from covenant relationship.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What spiritual 'caves' do we seek when avoiding God's convicting presence?
2. How does Christ transform God's terrifying majesty into approachable grace for believers?

Interlinear Text

עַפְרָה וְבַמְחָל וְבַמְעָר וְתַּחַת אָרֶץ
And they shall go into the holes of the rocks and into the caves of the earth
H935 H4631 H6697 H4247 H6083

פֶּרֶת מִפְגַּשׁ וְיְהִי וְמִמְּדֵד רְגָאוֹן וְבְלָוִם וְ
for fear of the LORD and for the glory of his majesty when he ariseth
H6440 H6343 H3068 H1926 H1347 H6965

לְעַרְצָה בְּאָרֶץ:
to shake terribly the earth
H6206 H776

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 2:10 (Glory): Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty.

Luke 23:30 (Parallel theme): Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us.

Isaiah 2:21 (Glory): To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

Hosea 10:8 (Parallel theme): The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us.

Revelation 11:19 (Parallel theme): And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Hebrews 12:26 (Parallel theme): Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

Haggai 2:6 (References Lord): For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

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