

Isaiah 2:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Repetition of verse 19's imagery (hiding in clefts and rocks) emphasizes the universality and intensity of terror when God arises in judgment. The purpose clause—'when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth'—identifies divine theophany as the cause. This cosmic shaking anticipates Haggai 2:6-7 and Hebrews 12:26-29's warning that God will shake both heaven and earth, leaving only the unshakeable kingdom. God's judgment removes all false security, driving humanity to seek refuge in Him alone.

Historical Context

Earthquakes were common in the Levant, providing a natural analogy for divine intervention. Prophetic literature frequently employs seismic imagery for God's judgment (Amos 1:1; Zechariah 14:5).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does God's 'shaking' reveal about the insecurity of earthly confidences?
2. How do we participate in the 'unshakeable kingdom' that remains after divine shaking?

Interlinear Text

לְבוֹא	בְּנוֹקְרֹת	הַצֵּרִים	וּבְסֻמֵּי	הַסֵּלֶעַיִם	מִפְּנֵי
To go	into the clefts	of the rocks	and into the tops	of the ragged rocks	for
H935	H5366	H6697	H5585	H5553	H6440
פֶּחַד	יְהוָה	וּמִהֲדָר	גְּאוֹנוֹ	בְּקוֹמֹו	
fear	of the LORD	and for the glory	of his majesty	when he ariseth	
H6343	H3068	H1926	H1347	H6965	
לַעֲרֹץ	הָאֲרֶץ:				
to shake terribly	the earth				
H6206	H776				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 2:19 (Glory): 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.

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.

Job 30:6 (Parallel theme): To dwell in the cliffs of the valleys, in caves of the earth, and in the rocks.

Exodus 33:22 (Glory): And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:

Song of Solomon 2:14: O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.

