

# 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

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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

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מִפְנִים וְבִסְלָעִים וּבִסְעִיף וְבְּנֵרֶךְ וְתַּלְבֹּזָא  
To go into the clefts of the rocks and into the tops of the ragged rocks for  
H935 H5366 H6697 H5585 H5553 H6440

בְּקָרְבָּן וְגָאוֹנָה וְמִמְּפָדָר וְיְהִוָּה וְפָנָי  
fear of the LORD and for the glory of his majesty when he ariseth  
H6343 H3068 H1926 H1347 H6965

לְעַזְּרָה בְּאָרֶץ  
to shake terribly the earth  
H6206 H776

## Additional Cross-References

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**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 clifts 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 clift 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.

