

Isaiah 22:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And behold joy and gladness, slaying oxen, and killing sheep, eating flesh, and drinking wine: let us eat and drink; for to morrow we shall die.

Analysis

'And behold joy and gladness, slaying oxen, and killing sheep, eating flesh, and drinking wine: let us eat and drink; for to morrow we shall die.' This verse captures hedonistic response to crisis: since judgment comes, pursue pleasure. The phrase 'let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die' is quoted by Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:32 regarding resurrection denial—if no afterlife, pursue present pleasure. Yet here it represents faithless response—instead of repentance when facing judgment, they harden hearts in defiant hedonism. This demonstrates a common response to crisis: either repentance or hardening. Some turn to God under pressure; others turn away toward pleasure or despair. The passage condemns this response as rebellion against God's disciplinary purposes. Reformed theology emphasizes divine chastisement's purpose is repentance and restoration, but human hearts can resist even under judgment.

Historical Context

This likely describes Jerusalem during siege preparations—knowing judgment approaches, people feast defiantly. Belshazzar's feast in Daniel 5 exemplifies this pattern—feasting while judgment arrives. Modern equivalent appears when people facing death embrace hedonism ('live it up'), substance abuse, or nihilistic pleasure-seeking rather than repentance. The Epicurean philosophy ('eat, drink, be merry') that Paul references represents this worldview systematized—if no afterlife or judgment, pleasure maximization is rational. Christianity confronts this with

resurrection reality and coming judgment, demonstrating that present choices have eternal consequences. The passage warns against hardened hearts that respond to divine discipline with defiance rather than repentance. History shows civilizations in decline often embrace hedonism and nihilism rather than reform—Rome's decline included such characteristics.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does defiant hedonism in face of judgment reveal about hardened hearts?
2. How does resurrection belief counter 'eat, drink for tomorrow we die' philosophy?
3. Why do some respond to crisis with repentance while others harden in pleasure-seeking?

Interlinear Text

כִּי אָנָּא וְלֹא יְהִי כִּי שָׁשׁ וְלֹא וְשָׁמַחַת הִנֵּה
H2009 And behold joy H8342 and gladness H8057 slaying H2026 oxen H1241 and killing H7819 sheep H6629

מִתְּבָשֵׂר וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחַד וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחַד וְלֹא יִשְׁתַּחַד
eating flesh and drink wine eating and drink H3588 for to tomorrow H4279

תְּמוּתָה:

we shall die

H4191

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 56:12 (Parallel theme): Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.

1 Corinthians 15:32 (Parallel theme): If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

James 5:5 (Parallel theme): Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org