

# Isaiah 24:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake.

## Analysis

**He who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit**—Isaiah elaborates the previous verse's trap imagery: escaping one danger leads directly to another. The progressive verbs trace futile flight: flee, fall, climb up, get taken. This isn't theoretical possibility but stated certainty—every escape attempt ends in another trap.

**For the windows from on high are open** (כִּי־אַרְבוֹת מִמָּרוֹם נִפְתָּחוּ, ki-arubot mimarom niftachu)—This phrase deliberately echoes Genesis 7:11, where 'windows of heaven' opened releasing the Flood. אַרְבוֹת (arubot, windows/floodgates) suggests cataclysmic judgment of Noah's-flood proportions. God isn't sending isolated troubles but opening heaven's floodgates of wrath.

**And the foundations of the earth do shake** (וַיִּרְעָשׁוּ מוֹסְדֵי אֶרֶץ, vayir'ashu mosdei eretz)—Divine judgment attacks earth's very foundation. This cosmic shaking appears throughout eschatological prophecy (Haggai 2:6-7; Hebrews 12:26-27), indicating not mere political upheaval but fundamental restructuring of created order.

## Historical Context

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Isaiah wrote during relative stability (Uzziah's prosperity), yet prophesied total cosmic upheaval. His generation might dismiss such warnings as hyperbole, but history vindicated him—Assyrian invasion (701 BC), Babylonian destruction (586 BC), and beyond. The 'windows from on high' allusion to Noah's Flood reminds readers that God has judged the whole world before and will do so again. Jesus used similar language predicting Jerusalem's fall (Luke 21:25-26): 'signs in sun, moon, stars...sea and waves roaring...powers of heaven shaken.' Revelation depicts earthquake judgments (Revelation 6:12-14, 16:18-20) that shake earth's foundations, fulfilling Isaiah's vision.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the futility of escape described here expose human pride and self-reliance in face of divine judgment?
2. What does the 'windows from on high' opened (echoing the Flood) teach about the scope and certainty of God's coming judgment?
3. How should 'the foundations of the earth' shaking affect our investments in temporal things versus eternal realities?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהָיָה H1961	וְהָיָה H5127	מִקּוֹל H6963	הַפֶּחַד H6343		
And it shall come to pass	that he who fleeth	from the noise	of the fear		
יִפֹּל H5307	אֶל H413	הַפֶּחַת H6354	וְהָעוֹלָה H5927	מִתּוֹךְ H8432	הַפֶּחַת H6354
shall fall	into the pit	and he that cometh up	out of the midst	into the pit	
יִלָּקַח H3920	בְּפֶתַח H6341	כִּי H3588	אֲרָב וְתֵהוֹ H699	מִמָּרוֹם H4791	נִפְתָּחוּ H6605
shall be taken	in the snare	for the windows	from on high	are open	
וְיָרָעַשׁ H7493	וּמִסְדֵּי H4146	אֶרֶץ H776			
do shake	and the foundations	of the earth			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 18:7** (Parallel theme): Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.

**Genesis 7:11** (Parallel theme): In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

**Psalms 18:15** (Parallel theme): Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.

**Job 20:24** (Parallel theme): He shall flee from the iron weapon, and the bow of steel shall strike him through.

**Amos 5:19** (Parallel theme): As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.