

Isaiah 24:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.

Analysis

They shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit (אָספּה אַסיר על־בוֹר)—The verb asap (gather) intensified with cognate noun asephah (gathering) emphasizes comprehensive roundup. These rebellious powers, both spiritual and human, are gathered as asir (prisoners) into a bor (pit, dungeon, cistern). **And shall be shut up in the prison** (אָסגֵּר על־מַסְגֵּר)—The verb sagar (shut, close) with noun masger (prison, enclosure) creates wordplay: shut shut, imprisoned in prison. The redundancy emphasizes inescapable confinement.

After many days shall they be visited (וַיִּמָּרְבּ יָמִים וַיִּקָּדוּ)—The verb paqad here likely means 'punished' or 'reckoned with' rather than 'released.' After rov yamim (many days, abundance of days), final judgment comes. This may refer to the 'thousand years' of Revelation 20:2-3 when Satan is bound, then released for final rebellion before ultimate judgment (20:7-10). Alternatively, it describes the waiting period between death and final judgment (Revelation 20:5, 12-13). Either way, the passage teaches that judgment has stages: initial confinement, waiting period, final reckoning. Justice delayed is not justice denied—God's timing is purposeful, not procrastinating.

Historical Context

Ancient prisons were often cisterns or underground pits. Joseph was thrown into a pit (Genesis 37:24); Jeremiah into a dungeon cistern (Jeremiah 38:6). These

became metaphors for death, Sheol, and eschatological imprisonment. Jewish apocalyptic writings describe rebellious angels imprisoned until final judgment (1 Enoch 10:12-13; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6), influencing Christian eschatology.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the imagery of imprisoning evil powers before final judgment comfort believers suffering injustice?
2. What does the 'many days' waiting period teach about God's patience and the certainty of ultimate justice?
3. How do Revelation 20's visions of Satan's binding and final release relate to this Isaiah passage?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵסְפוּ	אֵסְפוּ ה	אֲסִיר	עַל	בֹּר
And they shall be gathered together	are gathered	as prisoners	H5921	in the pit
H622	H626	H616		H953
וְסָגְרוּ	עַל	מִסְגֵּר	וְאַחֲרַיִם	יָמִים
and shall be shut up	H5921	in the prison	and after many	days
H5462		H4525	H7230	H3117
יִפְקְדוּ:				
shall they be visited				
H6485				

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 9:11 (Parallel theme): As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water.

Isaiah 42:22 (Parallel theme): But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore.

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