

Isaiah 25:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

Analysis

This prophetic declaration announces death's ultimate defeat, one of the Old Testament's clearest statements on resurrection and eternal life. 'He will swallow up death in victory' (bala ha-mavet la-netsach, בָּלָא הַמָּוֶת לַנֶּצַח) uses vivid imagery—death, which devours humanity, will itself be devoured. The verb bala (swallow, engulf) depicts complete consumption. 'In victory' or 'forever' (netsach) indicates permanent, irreversible conquest. Paul quotes this in 1 Corinthians 15:54 regarding Christ's resurrection: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' The second promise: 'The Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces' anticipates complete sorrow's end. Revelation 21:4 echoes this in the new creation vision. 'The rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth' means shame, reproach, and disgrace God's people suffered will be removed universally. The final authority: 'for the LORD hath spoken it' (ki Yehovah diber) guarantees absolute certainty—God's word cannot fail.

Historical Context

Isaiah 25 appears within the 'Isaiah Apocalypse' (chapters 24-27), prophesying final judgment and ultimate restoration. Death reigned from Adam (Romans 5:14), humanity's universal enemy. Ancient Near Eastern religions offered little hope beyond death—Sheol was shadowy existence, not resurrection glory. This prophecy

was revolutionary, declaring death's conquest. Jesus's resurrection accomplished this victory (1 Corinthians 15:20-26), defeating death by experiencing it and rising. The early church faced martyrdom courageously, believing death was defeated. This promise sustained persecuted believers through centuries—present tears are temporary; eternal joy awaits. Modern believers facing death, grief, or suffering cling to this certainty: death's days are numbered; complete victory is guaranteed.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the promise of death's ultimate defeat change your perspective on mortality, grief, and present suffering?
2. In what ways can you live now in light of this future certainty that God will wipe away every tear?

Interlinear Text

בִּלְע	הַמָּוֶת	לִנְצָח	וּמָחָה	אֶדְנִי	יְהוָה
He will swallow up	death	in victory	will wipe away	and the Lord	GOD
H1104	H4194	H5331	H4229	H136	H3069
דִּמְעָה	מִעַל	כָּל	פְּנֵי	וְחִרְפָּה	עַמּוֹ
tears	H5921	H3605	from off all faces	and the rebuke	of his people
H1832		H6440	H2781	H5971	
יִסֹּר	מִעַל	כָּל	הָאָרֶץ	כִּי	יְהוָה
shall he take away	H5921	H3605	from off all the earth	H3588	for the LORD
H5493			H776		H3068
דִּבֶּר:					
hath spoken					
H1696					

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 21:4 (References God): And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 7:17 (References God): For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

1 Corinthians 15:54 (Parallel theme): So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Hosea 13:14 (Parallel theme): I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.

1 Corinthians 15:26 (Parallel theme): The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Revelation 20:14 (Parallel theme): And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Isaiah 35:10 (References Lord): And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 30:26 (References Lord): Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.

2 Timothy 1:10 (Parallel theme): But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

1 Peter 4:14 (References God): If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.