

Isaiah 26:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.

Analysis

In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. This verse opens Isaiah's great Song of Salvation, looking forward to the eschatological day when God's redeemed people celebrate His deliverance. The phrase "**In that day**" (בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא/bayyom hahu) is Isaiah's signature eschatological marker, appearing over 40 times in the book, pointing to God's final day of judgment and redemption when all His purposes reach fulfillment.

"We have a strong city" (וְיִרְמָנוּ/ir oz lanu) contrasts sharply with Babylon's fallen strongholds mentioned in the preceding chapter. The Hebrew oz (strength, might, fortress) emphasizes impregnable security—not from human fortifications but from divine protection. Unlike earthly cities with stone walls that crumble, this city's strength derives from God Himself. **"Salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks"** (וְיִשׁוּעָה יָשִׁית חֲמוֹת וְחָלָל/yeshuah yashit chomot vachel)—the Hebrew yeshuah (salvation, deliverance, victory) becomes the city's literal fortification. God doesn't merely defend the walls; salvation is the walls. The verb yashit (to set, establish, appoint) indicates deliberate divine action, while chomot vachel (walls and ramparts) were the double defensive system of ancient cities—outer and inner walls with a protective buffer between them.

Historical Context

Isaiah prophesied during 740-700 BCE, when Judah faced constant military threats from Assyria and other powers. Ancient Near Eastern cities depended entirely on their fortification walls for survival—a breached wall meant destruction, slavery, and death. Against this backdrop, Isaiah's vision of a city where salvation itself forms the walls would have been revolutionary. This contrasts with King Hezekiah's frantic wall-building projects in Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 32:5) when facing Assyrian invasion. The song looks forward to the New Jerusalem described in Revelation 21-22, where God's presence provides all security.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does trusting in God's salvation as your 'wall' differ from depending on human securities (finances, reputation, abilities)?
2. What does it mean that salvation is not just inside the city but IS the city's very defense?
3. How does this vision of the future city shape your response to present insecurities and threats?

Interlinear Text

בִּי וּם	הָהּ וָא	יוֹשֵׁר	הַשִּׁיר	הִזָּה	בְּאֶרֶץ	יְהוּדָה
In that day	H1931	be sung	shall this song	H2088	in the land	of Judah
H3117		H7891	H7892		H776	H3063
עִיר	עָז	לְנוֹ	יְשׁוּעָה	יֵשׁ יֵת	חֹמֹת	
city	We have a strong	H0	salvation	will God appoint	for walls	
H5892	H5797		H3444	H7896	H2346	
וְחָלָל:						
and bulwarks						
H2426						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 60:18 (Salvation): Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.

Isaiah 62:11 (Salvation): Behold, the LORD hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

Isaiah 25:9 (Salvation): And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Psalms 31:21 (Parallel theme): Blessed be the LORD: for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city.

Psalms 48:12 (Parallel theme): Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof.

Jeremiah 33:11 (Parallel theme): The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the LORD of hosts: for the LORD is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the

LORD. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the LORD.

Zechariah 2:5 (Parallel theme): For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org