

Isaiah 26:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They are dead, they shall not live; they are deceased, they shall not rise: therefore hast thou visited and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish.

Analysis

They are dead, they shall not live; they are deceased, they shall not rise (מֵתִים בַּל־יָחְיוּ רֵפָאִים בַּל־יָקֻמוּ / metim bal-yichyu refa'im bal-yaqumu)—This verse contrasts sharply with verse 19's resurrection promise. The refa'im (shades, dead spirits) refers to Israel's defeated oppressors—the "other lords" of verse 13. Their death is final and permanent; they have no future resurrection. This demonstrates God's comprehensive judgment on wickedness.

Therefore hast thou visited and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish (לָקַח פָּקַדְתָּ וַתִּשְׁמַדְתָּם וַתֵּאָבֵד כָּל־זֵכֶר לָמוֹ / laken paqadta vatashmidem vate'abed kol-zeker lamo)—The verb פָּקַד (paqad, "to visit") often means divine intervention for judgment or salvation. Here it's punitive visitation. Their complete obliteration includes even their memory (zeker)—no legacy, no honor, no continued influence. Contrast this with the righteous whose names are written in God's book (Exodus 32:32, Daniel 12:1, Revelation 20:15).

Historical Context

Isaiah prophesied during Assyria's imperial expansion, when powerful nations seemed invincible. Yet Isaiah predicts their utter destruction and forgotten legacy. History proved him right: Assyria fell to Babylon (612 BC), Babylon to Persia (539 BC). These once-mighty empires that oppressed God's people are now

archaeological ruins, their power and memory erased from living influence. This pattern continues through Rome and every empire that sets itself against God.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the promise that God's enemies will not rise again encourage believers facing powerful opposition?
2. What does it mean that their 'memory shall perish'—why is legacy erasure part of divine judgment?
3. How should the certainty of God's judgment on wickedness affect how we respond to injustice and persecution today?

Interlinear Text

מֵתִים	בֹּל	יִחִי ו	רָפָא ים	בֹּל	יִקָּמוּ
They are dead	H1077	they shall not live	they are deceased	H1077	they shall not rise
H4191		H2421	H7496		H6965
לְכֵן	פָּקַדְתָּ	וַתְּשֹׁמֵד	וַתֵּאָבֵד	כָּל	
H3651	therefore hast thou visited	and destroyed	to perish	H3605	
	H6485	H8045	H6		
יֵכֹר	לְמוֹ:				
them and made all their memory	H0				
H2143					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 10:7 (Parallel theme): The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

Isaiah 8:19 (Parallel theme): And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

Psalms 106:28 (Parallel theme): They joined themselves also unto Baal-peor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead.

Revelation 20:5 (Resurrection): But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Isaiah 10:3 (Parallel theme): And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation which shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory?

Psalms 109:13 (Parallel theme): Let his posterity be cut off; and in the generation following let their name be blotted out.

Psalms 9:6 (Parallel theme): O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them.

Exodus 14:30 (Parallel theme): Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.

Matthew 2:20 (Resurrection): Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.

Deuteronomy 4:28 (Parallel theme): And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.