

Isaiah 26:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

Analysis

Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee (לֵךְ אַמִּי בֹא בַחֲדָרֶיךָ וּסְגֵר דְלָתֶיךָ בְּעֶדְהָ / lekh ammi bo vachadarekha usegor delatekha ba'adekha)—The tender address אַמִּי (ammi, "my people") recalls Hosea 2:23's covenant restoration. חֲדָר (cheder, "inner chamber, room") suggests intimate refuge, private sanctuary. This echoes the Passover (Exodus 12:22-23) where Israelites sheltered indoors while judgment passed over. It also anticipates Jesus's instruction for private prayer (Matthew 6:6).

Hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast (חָבֵי כְחֵמֶט־רֵגָע עַד־יַעֲבֹר זַעַם / chavi khim'at-rega ad-ya'avor za'am)—The verb חָבָא (chava, "to hide, conceal") indicates protective concealment, not fearful cowering. כְחֵמֶט־רֵגָע (khim'at-rega, "a little moment") relativizes suffering's duration compared to eternity. זַעַם (za'am, "indignation, wrath") describes God's judicial anger against sin. Believers are hidden FROM judgment, not IN judgment—Christ bore God's wrath so we find refuge in Him.

Historical Context

This verse bridges Isaiah 26's resurrection hope (v. 19) with chapter 27's ultimate judgment and restoration. It provided comfort during Babylonian exile: though judgment falls on the earth, God's people find refuge in Him. The 'little moment' perspective helps endure suffering (2 Corinthians 4:17). The New Testament

develops this theme: believers are hidden in Christ (Colossians 3:3), sealed until redemption (Ephesians 4:30), kept from the hour of trial (Revelation 3:10). Whether this means pre-tribulation rapture or divine preservation through tribulation remains debated, but the core promise stands—God protects His people.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to 'enter into thy chambers' and find refuge in God during times of judgment and upheaval?
2. How does viewing suffering as 'a little moment' compared to eternity provide perspective during long trials?
3. In what ways does Christ serve as our 'inner chamber' where we hide from God's wrath against sin?

Interlinear Text

לִּי H1980	עַמִּי H5971	בֹּא H935	בְּחֻדְךָ יְיָ H2315	וְסָגַרְתָּ H5462	דִּלְתֵיךָ H1817	בַּעֲדָךְ H1157
my people	enter	thou into thy chambers	and shut	thy doors		
חֲבֵי י H2247	כְּמֵעֵט H4592	יְיָ גֵעַ H7281	עַד H5704	יַעֲבֹר H5674		
about thee hide	thyself as it were for a little	moment		be overpast		
יָעַם H2195						
until the indignation						

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 30:5 (Parallel theme): For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Psalms 27:5 (Parallel theme): For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

Matthew 6:6 (Parallel theme): But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Psalms 91:4 (Parallel theme): He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Proverbs 18:10 (Parallel theme): The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Psalms 17:8 (Parallel theme): Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,

2 Corinthians 4:17 (Parallel theme): For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

Isaiah 10:25 (Parallel theme): For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction.

Psalms 32:7 (Parallel theme): Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Isaiah 51:4 (Parallel theme): Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.