

# Isaiah 26:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

## Analysis

**Divine Theophany for Judgment:** The phrase "the LORD cometh out of his place" (Hebrew הִנֵּה יְהָוָה יַצֵּא מִמְקֹמוֹ, hinneh Yahweh yotse mimqomo) depicts God leaving His heavenly dwelling to execute judgment on earth. Similar language appears in Micah 1:3, emphasizing the fearsome nature of divine intervention. **Purpose of Coming:** The infinitive לִפְעַל (lifqod, "to punish") can mean "to visit" or "to attend to," here with negative connotation—divine visitation for judgment.

The phrase עֻוֹן יוֹשֵׁב-הָאָרֶץ (avon yoshev-ha'arets, "iniquity of the inhabitants of the earth") indicates comprehensive judgment—not just Israel but all earth-dwellers. **Earth's Witness:** "The earth also shall disclose her blood" (Hebrew וְגַלְתָּה בָּאָרֶץ אֲתָּה גָּלַתְּךָ) personifies earth as revealing hidden murders, crimes covered but not forgotten. The verb גָּלַתְּךָ (galah, "disclose/reveal") suggests uncovering what was concealed. **Eschatological Vision:** This prophecy points to final judgment when all hidden sin will be exposed and justice fully executed.

## Historical Context

**Isaiah's Apocalypse (Chapters 24-27):** This section, dated to the 8th century BC during Isaiah's ministry, contains prophecies of universal judgment and ultimate restoration. Unlike Isaiah's oracles against specific nations, these chapters envision worldwide judgment, suggesting an eschatological or end-times focus.

**Ancient Near Eastern Context:** In the ancient world, unpunished bloodshed was believed to pollute the land (Genesis 4:10, Numbers 35:33). The concept of earth "disclosing her blood" reflects the belief that innocent blood cried out for justice. Isaiah's prophecy assures that no injustice escapes God's notice, and all hidden crimes will ultimately be brought to light and judged.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What is the significance of God "coming out of his place" rather than judging from heaven?
2. How does the earth "disclosing her blood" relate to biblical concepts of justice and the land being defiled by innocent bloodshed?
3. What does this passage teach about God's knowledge of hidden sins and ultimate accountability?
4. How should the certainty of coming judgment affect how believers live and pursue justice now?
5. In what ways does this prophecy find fulfillment historically, and what aspects remain future/eschatological?

## Interlinear Text

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לְפָנָן דְ מִמְּקוֹם זֶה יְהוָה יְהוָה  
For behold the LORD cometh out of his place to punish

עַל יְהוָה כָּל יְהוָה וְשָׁב וְעַל יְהוָה כָּל יְהוָה  
also shall disclose for their iniquity the inhabitants of the earth

עַל יְהוָה כָּל יְהוָה וְשָׁב וְעַל יְהוָה כָּל יְהוָה  
and shall no more cover of the earth her blood and shall no more cover

בָּרוּכִים:

her slain

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## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 18:4** (References Lord): For so the LORD said unto me, I will take my rest, and I will consider in my dwelling place like a clear heat upon herbs, and like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.

**Isaiah 13:11** (Sin): And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

**Job 16:18** (Blood): O earth, cover not thou my blood, and let my cry have no place.

**Revelation 16:6** (Blood): For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.