

Isaiah 27:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Or let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me.

Analysis

Or let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me. This verse offers stunning grace: enemies (the "briers and thorns" of v.4) can avoid destruction by taking hold of God's **strength** (ma'uzzi, מַעַזֵּץ, literally "my stronghold" or "my fortress"). Instead of fighting God and being burned, they can flee TO Him for refuge. The phrase **take hold** (yachazek, יַחַזֵּק) means to seize, grasp firmly, cling to—depicting urgent, desperate faith.

The repetition **make peace with me...make peace with me** (ya'aseh shalom li...ve'ya'aseh shalom li, וַיַּעֲשֵׂה שָׁלוֹם לִי...וַיַּעֲשֵׂה שָׁלוֹם לִי) emphasizes certainty—whoever takes hold of God's strength will definitely make peace. Shalom (שָׁלוֹם) encompasses wholeness, reconciliation, covenant relationship, not merely ceasefire. This is gospel in the Old Testament: enemies of God can become friends by fleeing to God Himself as their refuge. Paul echoes this in Romans 5:1: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Christ is our ma'oz (stronghold) and our peace (Ephesians 2:14). We who were enemies are reconciled by grasping Christ by faith (Colossians 1:21-22).

Historical Context

Isaiah's original hearers would have seen this as invitation to Gentile nations to join covenant relationship with Israel's God rather than opposing Him. Historically, proselytes did exactly this—grasping Israel's God as their stronghold. The New

Testament reveals fuller meaning: all humanity (Jew and Gentile) were enemies needing to make peace through Christ (Romans 5:10, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20). The early church's mission was proclaiming this peace to all nations (Acts 10:36, Ephesians 2:17).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does it mean practically to 'take hold of God's strength' as your refuge from His wrath?
2. How does this verse illustrate that the gospel is an invitation to peace, not just a threat of judgment?
3. In what ways is Christ our 'stronghold' and our 'peace' with God?

Interlinear Text

וְאִתָּן	לְךָ	בְּמָעֹזِ	יְשַׁׁעְתָּה	לִ	שֵׁלָום
H176	Or let him take hold	of my strength	that he may make	peace	H0
	H2388	H4581	H6213	H7965	

שֵׁלָום	יְשַׁׁעְתָּה	לִ
peace	that he may make	H0

| H7965 | H6213 | |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 25:4 (Parallel theme): For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.

Job 22:21 (Peace): Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.

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