

Isaiah 30:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, the name of the LORD cometh from far, burning with his anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire:

Analysis

Behold, the name of the LORD cometh from far, burning with his anger (הַנָּה שְׁמֵה יְהוָה בָּא מִמְּרָחָק בְּעֵר אֶפְוָ) — The 'name of the LORD' represents God's revealed character and presence. It comes mimmerchaq (from far), indicating divine approach from transcendence. Bo'er (burning) with apo (His anger/nostril) depicts fury as consuming fire. **And the burden thereof is heavy** (וְכַד מִשְׁאָה) — The koved (heaviness, weight) of massa'ah (burden, load) crushes its objects. God's anger isn't petulant emotion but weighty, substantial, crushing judgment.

His lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire — The personification continues: sephatayw (His lips) filled with za'am (indignation, wrath), and leshono (His tongue) like esh okelet (devouring fire). God's word becomes weapon—what He speaks consumes. Revelation 19:15 pictures Christ with sword proceeding from His mouth. Hebrews 4:12 describes God's word as 'sharper than any twoedged sword.' Here words become fire, burning away dross and consuming enemies. This theophany—God appearing in fire and fury—recalls Sinai (Exodus 19:18), Ezekiel's visions (Ezekiel 1:4), and anticipates final judgment (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8) when Christ appears 'in flaming fire taking vengeance.'

Historical Context

Theophanies in Israel's history often involved fire: burning bush (Exodus 3:2), Sinai (Exodus 19:18), pillar of fire (Exodus 13:21), Ezekiel's chariot (Ezekiel 1:4).

Fire represents holiness that consumes impurity, glory that cannot be approached carelessly, judgment that purifies or destroys. Isaiah's audience would connect this to historical judgments—Assyria destroyed by angel (Isaiah 37:36), foreshadowing greater future judgment.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's 'anger' differ from human anger—righteous response to evil versus selfish reaction?
2. What does the imagery of God's words as devouring fire teach about the power and danger of divine speech?
3. How should awareness of God's burning holiness and coming judgment shape evangelism and worship?

Interlinear Text

בָּעֵד	רְאֵה	נִשְׁמָה	יְהֹוָה	אֵל	בָּאֵל	מִמֶּרֶב	לְאֵל	בָּעֵד
H2009	Behold the name	H8034	of the LORD	H3068	cometh	H935	from far	H1197
with his anger	thereof is heavy	H639	and the burden	H3514	מִשְׁאָה	H4858	his lips	H8193
and his tongue	fire	H3956	as a devouring	H784	לְאֵל	I	are full	H4390
			אֶכְלָתָה:	H398	שְׁפָתִים	I	of indignation	H2195

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