

Isaiah 31:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet he also is wise, and will bring evil, and will not call back his words: but will arise against the house of the evildoers, and against the help of them that work iniquity.

Analysis

Yet he also is wise (וְגַם־הוּא חָכָם, vegam-hu chakham)—a divine ironic statement: God too possesses חָכְמָה (chokmah, wisdom), just like Egypt's vaunted counselors. **And will bring evil, and will not call back his words** (וַיָּבֵא רָע וְאֶת־דְּבָרָיו לֹא יִסִּיר, vayave ra ve'et-devaraw lo hesir)—He will bring רָע (ra, evil, calamity) and won't יִסִּיר (hesir, remove, turn back) His words. **But will arise against the house of the evildoers, and against the help of them that work iniquity** (וְקָם עַל־בֵּית וְעַל־עֲזָרַת פְּעֻלָּתוֹ אָוֵן, veqam al-beyt mere'im ve'al-ezrat po'aley aven).

The sarcasm cuts: they trust Egyptian wisdom while ignoring divine wisdom. God's wisdom, unlike human calculation, executes inevitable judgment. When He speaks רָע (ra, disaster), it comes—His דְּבָרִים (devarim, words) are irrevocable. He will קוּם (qum, arise, stand up) against both the מְרִעִים (mere'im, evildoers) and their helper. Egypt won't escape; aiding rebels against God brings judgment on the helper. Romans 1:32 applies this principle: not only those who practice sin but those who 'have pleasure in them that do them' face condemnation.

Historical Context

Egypt's wisdom was legendary—Joseph encountered it (Genesis 41:8), Moses was educated in it (Acts 7:22). Yet divine wisdom infinitely surpasses human. When Assyria invaded, Egypt's help proved worthless (2 Kings 18:21). Later, both Judah

and Egypt fell to Babylon. God's word came to pass; Egyptian counsel failed. James 1:5 contrasts worldly wisdom with wisdom from God.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do we sometimes act as if God's wisdom is inferior to human expertise or worldly counsel?
2. What does it mean that God 'will not call back his words'—His promises and warnings are certain?
3. How should knowing that God judges both evildoers and their helpers affect our alliances and partnerships?

Interlinear Text

וְגַם	הוּא	חָכֵם	וַיָּבֵא	כֵּן	וְאֵת	דְּבָרָיו	לֹא
H1571	H1931	Yet he also is wise	and will bring	evil	H853	his words	H3808
		H2450	H935	H7451		H1697	
וְהֵסִיר	וְקָם	עַל	בֵּית	מְרַעֲיָם	וְעַל		
and will not call back	but will arise	H5921	against the house	of the evildoers	H5921		
H5493	H6965		H1004	H7489			
עֲזָרָת	פְּעֻלָּתוֹ	אִי־צֶדֶק					
and against the help	of them that work	iniquity					
H5833	H6466	H205					

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 23:19 (Parallel theme): God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Isaiah 45:7 (Evil): I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

Jeremiah 10:12 (Parallel theme): He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.

Romans 16:27 (Parallel theme): To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

Matthew 24:35 (Word): Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Amos 3:6 (Evil): Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?

Jude 1:25 (Parallel theme): To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Zephaniah 3:8 (Resurrection): Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.