

Isaiah 32:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

Analysis

And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind (וְהָיָה-אִישׁ כְּמַחְבֵּא-רוּחַ, vehayah-ish kemachave-ruach)—a אִישׁ (ish, man) will be like a מַחְבֵּא (machave, hiding place, shelter) from רוּחַ (ruach, wind, spirit). **And a covert from the tempest** (וְסִתָּר זֶרֶם, veseter zarem)—a סִתָּר (seter, covering, hiding place) from זֶרֶם (zerem, flood, downpour, storm). **As rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land** (כַּפֹּלְגֵי-מַיִם בְּצִיּוֹן כַּצֵּל סֵלַע-כְּבֹד בְּאֶרֶץ עֵיפָה, kefalegey-mayim betsayon ketsel sela-kaved be'erets ayefah).

The 'man' (אִישׁ, ish) is most naturally the Messianic king of verse 1. He provides shelter from life's storms—not removing trials but being present refuge within them. The imagery accumulates: hiding from wind, cover from tempest, water in desert, shade from rock. Each metaphor addresses desperate need: exposure, flood, thirst, exhaustion. Christ embodies all—John 4:14 (living water), Matthew 11:28 (rest for weary), Psalm 61:2 (rock higher than I). First Corinthians 10:4 identifies Christ as the rock providing water in wilderness.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern travelers understood these metaphors viscerally. Desert winds could sandblast exposed travelers; flash floods in wadis killed; dehydration meant death; scorching sun caused collapse. Finding shelter—a rock outcropping, a water source—meant survival. Isaiah's audience, living in semi-arid climate,

instantly grasped the life-or-death nature of these provisions. Christ is life itself in the wilderness of fallen world.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How have you experienced Christ as 'hiding place,' 'water,' and 'shade' during life's storms and deserts?
2. What does it mean that He doesn't remove storms but shelters us within them?
3. Who in your life needs to discover Christ as refuge—and how can you point them to Him?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה H1961	אִישׁ H376	כְּמִתְבָּא H4224	ר וּמִן H7307	וְסִתָּר H5643		
	And a man	shall be as an hiding place	from the wind	and a covert		
מִן H2230	כְּפַלְגֵּי H6388	מַיִם H4325	בְּצִיּוֹן H6724	כַּצֵּל H6738	סֶלַע H5553	
from the tempest	as rivers	of water	in a dry place	as the shadow	rock	
כִּבְדֹּד H3515	בְּאֶרֶץ H776	עֵיפָה: H5889				
of a great	land	in a weary				

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.

Isaiah 44:3 (Parallel theme): For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

Isaiah 9:6 (Parallel theme): For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 43:20 (Parallel theme): The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.

Isaiah 7:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 41:18 (Parallel theme): I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

Psalms 143:9 (Parallel theme): Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me.

Zechariah 13:7 (Parallel theme): Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.