

Isaiah 33:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD is exalted; for he dwelleth on high: he hath filled Zion with judgment and righteousness.

Analysis

The LORD is exalted; for he dwelleth on high (נִשְׁגָּב יְהוָה כִּי שָׁכַן מְרוֹם, nisgav YHWH ki shokhen marom)—Yahweh is נָשָׂג (nasag, exalted, high, inaccessible) because He שָׁכַן (shakhan, dwells) in מְרוֹם (marom, the heights). **He hath filled Zion with judgment and righteousness** (מִלֵּא צִיּוֹן מִשְׁפָּט וְצִדְקָה, mile Tsiyon mishpat utsedaqah)—He has filled Zion with מִשְׁפָּט (mishpat, judgment, justice) and צִדְקָה (tsedaqah, righteousness).

After describing deliverance (vv. 3-4), Isaiah ascribes praise. God's exaltation (נִשְׁגָּב, nisgav) means both transcendence (dwelling on high) and supremacy (elevated above all). Yet this transcendent God fills Zion—immanent presence. He fills it not with wealth or military strength but with מִשְׁפָּט (mishpat) and צִדְקָה (tsedaqah)—justice and righteousness. Psalm 99:9 declares: 'Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.' God's throne established on justice (Psalm 89:14).

Historical Context

Zion, Jerusalem's temple mount, represented God's earthly dwelling. Yet 1 Kings 8:27 acknowledges: 'heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house.' God's transcendence and immanence coexist—He dwells in inaccessible heights yet fills Zion. After delivering Jerusalem from Assyria, God's justice and righteousness were vindicated. The ultimate fulfillment: Immanuel (God with us, Matthew 1:23), the Word made flesh (John 1:14).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's transcendence (dwelling on high) coexist with His immanence (filling Zion)?
2. What does it mean that God fills His dwelling place with justice and righteousness, not wealth or power?
3. How should awareness of God's exalted position shape worship, prayer, and daily life?

Interlinear Text

נִשְׁבָּח ב	יְהוָה ה	כִּי	שָׁכַן	מָר וָם	מָלֵא	צִיּוֹן
is exalted	The LORD	H3588	for he dwelleth	on high	he hath filled	Zion
H7682	H3068		H7931	H4791	H4390	H6726
מִשְׁפָּט	וְצִדְקָה:					
with judgment	and righteousness					
H4941	H6666					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 2:17 (References Lord): And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Romans 11:26 (Parallel theme): And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Daniel 4:37 (Judgment): Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

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