

Isaiah 34:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it.

Analysis

This prophetic summons calls all nations to witness God's sovereign judgment. The Hebrew imperative "qirbû" (come near) demonstrates God's universal authority over all peoples, not just Israel. This eschatological oracle introduces themes that culminate in Revelation's final judgment, where every knee shall bow. The cosmic scope ("earth...world") reveals that God's justice extends beyond temporal kingdoms to encompass all creation.

Historical Context

Delivered during Isaiah's ministry (740-680 BC), this oracle transitions from judgments on specific nations (chapters 13-23) to universal judgment. The chapter parallels chapter 35's restoration message, showing God's dual work of judgment and redemption.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's universal authority challenge modern notions of national sovereignty?
2. What comfort does God's impartial justice bring to those who suffer injustice?
3. How should the certainty of divine judgment affect our witness to the nations?

Interlinear Text

קִרְבּוֹ	גוֹיִם	תִּשְׁמַע	וְלֵאמֹר יָם	הַקֹּשׁ יָבוּ	תִּשְׁמַע
Come near	ye nations	hear	ye people	and hearken	hear
H7126	H1471	H8085	H3816	H7181	H8085
הָאָרֶץ	וְכָל־הַ	תֵּיבֵל	וְכָל־	צִפּוֹצֵיָהּ:	
let the earth	and all that is therein	the world	H3605	and all things that come forth	
H776	H4393	H8398		H6631	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 41:1 (Parallel theme): Keep silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew their strength: let them come near; then let them speak: let us come near together to judgment.

Isaiah 43:9 (Parallel theme): Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth.

Isaiah 1:2 (Parallel theme): Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

1 Corinthians 10:26 (Parallel theme): For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.

Isaiah 33:13 (Parallel theme): Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might.

Jeremiah 22:29 (Parallel theme): O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD.

Deuteronomy 32:1 (Parallel theme): Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

Revelation 2:7 (Parallel theme): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Isaiah 18:3 (Parallel theme): All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.

Isaiah 49:1 (Parallel theme): Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.