

Isaiah 34:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.

Analysis

The perpetual burning "night and day" emphasizes eternal punishment, a concept Jesus affirmed regarding hell (Mark 9:48). "Generation to generation" stresses the permanent nature of divine judgment—no restoration comes for those under God's final curse. The desolation means total uninhabitability forever, contrasting sharply with promises of land restoration for God's people. This sobering reality undergirds the Reformed understanding of eternal conscious punishment.

Historical Context

Edom's territory did become permanently desolate after the Nabatean conquest (6th-4th century BC). By New Testament times, Idumea was a shadow of former Edom.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does eternal punishment reveal the infinite offense of sin against an infinite God?
2. What comfort does the permanence of judgment bring to victims of evil?
3. How should we balance proclaiming God's love with warning of eternal consequences?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	וַיּוּמָם	לִילָה	תְּכַבֵּה	הַ	לְעוֹלָם	יַעֲלֶה	הַ
night	nor day	H3808	It shall not be quenched	for ever	thereof shall go up		
H3915	H3119		H3518	H5769		H5927	
עַשְׂנָת	הַ	לְדוֹר	לְדוֹר	תְּמַחֵב	בָּ	תְּמַחֵב	בָּ
the smoke	from generation	H1755	from generation	it shall lie waste	and ever	and ever	
H6227			H1755	H2717	H5331		H5331
אֵין	רֹא	עַבְרָהָם					
H369		none shall pass through	H0				
		H5674					

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 19:3 (Parallel theme): And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

Isaiah 13:20 (Parallel theme): It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.

Isaiah 66:24 (Parallel theme): And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

Revelation 18:18 (Parallel theme): And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!

Isaiah 1:31 (Parallel theme): And the strong shall be as tow, and the maker of it as a spark, and they shall both burn together, and none shall quench them.

Ezekiel 29:11 (Parallel theme): No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years.