

Isaiah 34:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the wild beasts of the island, and the satyr shall cry to his fellow; the screech owl also shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest.

Analysis

The "wild beasts" and "satyr" (Hebrew "sa'ir", possibly demons or wild goats) meeting suggests demonic activity in desolate places. The "screech owl" (Hebrew "lilit", possibly Lilith, a night demon in ancient Near Eastern mythology) finding rest indicates spiritual darkness filling the void left by God's judgment. While not affirming pagan mythology, Isaiah uses culturally understood imagery to communicate complete spiritual desolation. The Reformed view sees this as describing both literal desolation and spiritual darkness.

Historical Context

Ancient peoples associated ruins with demonic activity. Jesus referenced demons seeking rest in waterless places (Matthew 12:43), connecting to this imagery.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does spiritual desolation follow when God's presence departs?
2. What does this teach about the reality of spiritual warfare?
3. How should we understand places and nations given over to spiritual darkness?

Interlinear Text

וּפָגֵשׁ וְ	צִיִּים	אֶת	אֲיִים			
shall also meet	The wild beasts of the desert	H854	with the wild beasts of the island			
H6298	H6728		H338			
וְשֹׁעַ יֵר	עַל	רֵעֵהוּ	יִקְרָא	אֵל	שָׁם	הַרְגַּ יָעָה
and the satyr	H5921	to his fellow	shall cry	H389	H8033	also shall rest
H8163		H7453	H7121			H7280
לִיל יֵת	וּמָצָא הָ	לָהּ	מְנוּחַ:			
the screech owl	there and find	H0	for herself a place of rest			
H3917	H4672		H4494			