

Isaiah 34:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.

Analysis

The phrase "indignation of the LORD" (Hebrew "qetseph YHWH") emphasizes God's holy wrath against sin. The "ban" or "herem" signifies complete devotional destruction, a concept fulfilled ultimately in Christ who became a curse for us (Galatians 3:13). God's anger is not capricious emotion but righteous response to covenant violation and moral evil. The imagery of armies delivered to slaughter prefigures the winepress of God's wrath in Revelation 14:19-20.

Historical Context

This oracle specifically targets Edom (verse 5), Israel's ancient enemy descended from Esau. Edom's gloating over Jerusalem's fall (Obadiah 1:10-14) made them exemplars of nations opposing God's purposes.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do we reconcile God's love with His wrath against nations?

2. What does it mean that Christ bore God's indignation on our behalf?
3. How should God's righteous anger shape our understanding of sin's seriousness?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	לְאָפֶן	לִיהוָה	עַל	כָּל	הַגּוֹיִם	וְחֵמָּה
H3588	For the indignation	of the LORD	H5921	H3605	is upon all nations	and his fury
	H7110	H3068			H1471	H2534
עַל	כָּל	צְבָאָם	הִחָרִימָם	וְנָתַן		
H5921	H3605	upon all their armies	he hath utterly destroyed	them he hath delivered		
		H6635	H2763	H5414		
לְטָבַח:						
them to the slaughter						
H2874						

Additional Cross-References

Zephaniah 3:8 (References Lord): Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.