

Isaiah 34:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment.

Analysis

The sword "bathed in heaven" indicates that judgment originates in God's throne room before manifesting on earth. Edom represents all nations hostile to God's covenant people. The "people of my curse" (Hebrew "am chermi") emphasizes divine sovereignty in election and reprobation. This exemplifies the Reformed doctrine that God actively judges wickedness, not merely permitting consequences. Edom's judgment serves as a type of all opposition to Christ and His church.

Historical Context

Edom, descended from Esau (Genesis 36), maintained perpetual hostility toward Israel. They refused passage during the Exodus (Numbers 20:14-21) and celebrated Jerusalem's destruction in 586 BC.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereign election unto judgment reveal His justice?
2. What does Edom's fate teach about the danger of opposing God's people?
3. How should we view modern nations and movements that oppose the gospel?

Interlinear Text

רְתָתָה	בְּשָׁמָם	סְרָבִי	עַל	אֲדֹם
H3588 shall be bathed	H8064 in heaven	H2719 For my sword	H2009 the gne	H123 upon Idumea
H7301	H8064	H2719	H5921	H123

תַּגְתֵּר	עַל	עַם	סְרָמִי	לִמְשָׁפֵט
behold it shall come down	H5921	and upon the people	of my curse	to judgment
H3381	H5971	H2764	H4941	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 46:10 (Word): For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.

Isaiah 63:1 (Parallel theme): Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.

Malachi 1:4 (Parallel theme): Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever.