

Isaiah 34:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.

Analysis

The "day of the LORD's vengeance" (Hebrew "yom naqam") is central to prophetic eschatology—a day when God actively intervenes to judge evil and vindicate His people. "Recompense" (shillem) implies paying what is due, emphasizing justice not arbitrary punishment. Zion's controversy represents all covenant conflicts between God's kingdom and rebellious nations. This prefigures the final day when Christ returns to judge the living and the dead.

Historical Context

Edom's participation in Jerusalem's sacking (Psalm 137:7) created a "controversy" requiring divine justice. God promised Abraham that those who cursed his descendants would be cursed (Genesis 12:3).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's commitment to vengeance for His people comfort those suffering persecution?

2. What does "recompense" reveal about divine justice being perfectly proportional?
3. How should we live in light of the coming day of the Lord?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	יּוֹם	נִקְמָה	לַיהוָה	שָׁנָה	שְׁלוֹמֵי יָמִים
H3588	For it is the day	vengeance	of the LORD'S	and the year	of recompences
	H3117	H5359	H3068	H8141	H7966
	לְרִיב	צִיּוֹן:			
	for the controversy	of Zion			
	H7379	H6726			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 63:4 (Parallel theme): For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.

Isaiah 61:2 (References Lord): To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

Isaiah 35:4 (Parallel theme): Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

Psalms 94:1 (References Lord): O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, shew thyself.

Jeremiah 46:10 (References Lord): 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.

Revelation 19:2 (Parallel theme): For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

Revelation 18:20 (Parallel theme): Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

Deuteronomy 32:35 (Parallel theme): To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

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