

Isaiah 40:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

Analysis

The Hebrew 'malah' (fulfilled/completed) indicates that Jerusalem's punishment has fully satisfied divine justice. The doubling of sins receiving double punishment demonstrates the completeness of judgment, not excess—God's justice is perfect. This verse prophetically points to Christ bearing double our penalty: our sin's guilt and its punishment.

Historical Context

Jerusalem's warfare refers to the 70-year Babylonian captivity as decreed in Jeremiah 25:11-12. The completion of this period would herald Cyrus's decree allowing the Jews to return and rebuild the temple.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's perfect justice deepen your appreciation for His mercy?

2. What does it mean that your spiritual warfare is accomplished through Christ's finished work?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אֵל יְהוָה וְקָרָא וְיִשְׁמַע	לְבָב	עַל דְּבַר וְ		
	H413	H3588	H5921	H1696	
	and cry	to Jerusalem	ye comfortably	Speak	
	H7121	H3389	H3820		
כִּי	עֲוֹנֶיהָ	נִרְצָה	צָבָאָהּ	מְלָאָהּ	
	H3588	H7521	H6635	H4390	
	that her iniquity	is pardoned	unto her that her warfare	is accomplished	
חַטָּאתֶיהָ:	בְּכָל	כִּפְּלִים	יְהוָה	מִיַּד	לָקָחָהּ
	H3605	H3718	H3068	H3027	H3947
for all her sins	double	of the LORD'S	hand	for she hath received	

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 9:12 (Parallel theme): Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee;

Hosea 2:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.

Isaiah 61:7 (Parallel theme): For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them.

Revelation 18:6 (Parallel theme): Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

Isaiah 44:22 (Sin): I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

Jeremiah 16:18 (Sin): And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcases of their detestable and abominable things.

Isaiah 43:25 (Sin): I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Habakkuk 2:3 (Parallel theme): For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

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.

Isaiah 12:1 (References Lord): And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.