

Isaiah 41:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

Analysis

God addresses Israel as 'thou worm Jacob' and 'ye men of Israel' (better 'few men'—emphasizing smallness). This shocking designation 'worm' (Hebrew 'tola'at') acknowledges their weakness and insignificance, yet God promises, 'I will help thee.' The Holy One of Israel acts as their Redeemer ('go'el'—kinsman-redeemer), showing covenant relationship overcomes unworthiness.

Historical Context

The exilic community was indeed small and weak like a worm, easily crushed. Yet their Redeemer is the Holy One, creating infinite contrast between their weakness and His power.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does honest acknowledgment of your 'worm-like' condition lead to greater appreciation for God's help?

2. What does it mean that the Holy One serves as your Kinsman-Redeemer despite your unworthiness?

Interlinear Text

אָנָּבָן יְהוָה יְהוָה תְּזַלְּעַת בְּיַעֲקֹב מִתְּמִתָּה אֶל
 H408 Fear not thou worm Jacob and ye men of Israel H589
 H3372 H8438 H3290 H4962 H3478

יְהוָה תְּזַלְּעַת בְּיַעֲקֹב מִתְּמִתָּה אֶל יְהוָה נָאָם יְגַאֵּל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
 I will help thee saith the LORD and thy redeemer the Holy One of Israel H3478
 H5826 H5002 H3068 H1350 H6918

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 22:6 (Parallel theme): But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

Isaiah 54:5 (Redemption): For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

Isaiah 43:14 (Redemption): Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships.

Jeremiah 50:34 (Redemption): Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is his name: he shall throughly plead their cause, that he may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon.

Psalms 19:14 (Redemption): Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Job 25:6 (Parallel theme): How much less man, that is a worm? and the son of man, which is a worm?

Job 19:25 (Redemption): For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

Isaiah 47:4 (Redemption): As for our redeemer, the LORD of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 44:24 (Redemption): Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

Isaiah 44:6 (Redemption): Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

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