

Isaiah 42:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains.

Analysis

The call to praise extends to wilderness and its cities, villages of Kedar (Bedouin settlements), and inhabitants of Sela (rock dwellers). Even traditionally hostile or remote peoples will sing from mountaintops. No place or people are beyond God's redemptive reach.

Historical Context

Kedar (descendants of Ishmael) and Sela (Edomite region) represent traditional enemies of Israel. Their inclusion in worship demonstrates that salvation transcends ethnic and historical enmity through God's reconciling work.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Who represents your 'Kedar and Sela'—those you consider unlikely converts?
2. How does this vision of universal worship challenge your assumptions about God's saving reach?

Interlinear Text

וּשְׂא וּ	מִדְבָּר	וְעָרֵי יו	קוֹצֵר יָם	יֹשְׁבֵי	
thereof lift up	Let the wilderness	and the cities	their voice the villages	doth inhabit	
H5375	H4057	H5892	H2691	H3427	
כִּדָּר	יִרְנֶה	יֹשְׁבֵי	סֶלַע	מֵרֹאשׁ	הַר יָם
that Kedar	sing	doth inhabit	of the rock	from the top	of the mountains
H6938	H7442	H3427	H5553	H7218	H2022
יִצְחָו:					
let them shout					
H6681					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 32:16 (Parallel theme): Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field.

Isaiah 60:7 (Parallel theme): All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory.

Isaiah 52:7 (Parallel theme): How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Isaiah 21:16 (Parallel theme): For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Within a year, according to the years of an hireling, and all the glory of Kedar shall fail:

Isaiah 35:6 (Sin): Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Isaiah 16:1 (Parallel theme): Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion.

Psalms 120:5 (Parallel theme): Woe is me, that I sojourn in Mesech, that I dwell in the tents of Kedar!

Nahum 1:15 (Parallel theme): Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.

Genesis 25:23 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

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