

Isaiah 44:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

Analysis

God's redemptive work is described: 'I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins.' The imagery of clouds dissolving pictures complete removal of sin's record. The Hebrew 'machah' (blot out) means to wipe away, erase completely. The call to 'return unto me' is grounded in accomplished redemption: 'for I have redeemed thee.'

Historical Context

This promise of complete forgiveness anticipates the gospel. The perfect tense 'I have redeemed' points to God's finished work that enables and motivates return to Him.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does knowing God has already blotted out your sins motivate return to Him?
2. What does the cloud imagery teach about how completely God removes sin?

Interlinear Text

מָחַ יִתִּי	כָּעָב	פְּשָׁעַי יְיָ	וְכָעָב	חַטֹּאותַי יְיָ
I have blotted out	as a thick cloud	thy transgressions	and as a cloud	thy sins
H4229	H5645	H6588	H6051	H2403
פִּי יָשׁוּבָה	גְּאֻלְתִּיבָּ:			
return	unto me for I have redeemed			
H7725	H413 H3588	H1350		

Additional Cross-References

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

1 Corinthians 6:20 (Parallel theme): For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Isaiah 43:1 (Redemption): But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

Psalms 103:12 (Sin): As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Isaiah 55:7 (Parallel theme): Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Jeremiah 33:8 (Sin): And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.

Psalms 51:9 (Sin): Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

Psalms 51:1 (Sin): Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Isaiah 48:20 (Redemption): Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The LORD hath redeemed his servant Jacob.

Isaiah 1:27 (Redemption): Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

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