

Isaiah 45:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.

Analysis

Heaven is called to 'drop down' (nataph - distill like dew) righteousness, and skies to 'pour down' (nazal - flow like streams). Earth should open and 'bring forth salvation' while 'righteousness spring up together.' This cosmic imagery presents salvation as both heavenly gift and earthly response. The LORD creates it.

Historical Context

This poetic vision anticipates the new creation where righteousness characterizes all reality. The language echoes creation narratives while pointing to redemption's cosmic scope.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How is salvation both a gift from above and a response from below?
2. What does it mean that God creates righteousness and salvation rather than merely rewarding them?

Interlinear Text

פֶּרֶשׁ יְפֻן	שְׁמָה יְמָן	מִפְּעָל	וְשְׁמַקְןִּים	יְזָרֵל	אֶלְקָנָה
Drop down	ye heavens	from above	and let the skies	pour down	righteousness
H7491	H8064	H4605	H7834	H5140	H6664

תִּפְתַּח אֶרֶץ יְהֹוָה וְלֹא תִּשְׁעַל אֶצְדָּקָה הַזָּרָה

בראתינו:	יהי ה	אנ י	ו פד	תאם ים	spring up	together	H589	I the LORD	have created
					H6779	H3162		H3068	H1254

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 61:11 (Righteousness): For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Hosea 10:12 (Righteousness): Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

Psalms 72:6 (Parallel theme): He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth.

Isaiah 44:3 (Parallel theme): For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

Joel 3:18 (References Lord): And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.

Isaiah 32:15 (Parallel theme): Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest.

Isaiah 4:2 (References Lord): In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

Isaiah 11:1 (Parallel theme): And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

Isaiah 53:2 (Parallel theme): For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

Isaiah 60:21 (Righteousness): Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.