

Isaiah 47:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.

Analysis

The image of false counselors becoming 'stubble' consumed by fire depicts utter impotence - they cannot even save themselves, much less others. The phrase 'there shall not be a coal to warm at' emphasizes totality of judgment; even residual benefit is removed. This foreshadows eternal judgment where those who led others astray face worse condemnation (Matthew 23:15).

Historical Context

When Cyrus conquered Babylon, the priestly and magician class lost their privileged status. The Persians had their own magi and did not perpetuate Babylonian occult practices, fulfilling this prophecy of counsel becoming worthless.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What modern 'counselors' (influencers, experts, gurus) will prove to be stubble when judgment comes?
2. How can you discern between counsel that is godly substance versus worldly stubble?

Interlinear Text

לֹא שָׁרֶב תִּמְמָה אֵשׁ כְּקַשׁ בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה
H2009 H1961 Behold they shall be as stubble the fire shall burn H3808
H7179 H784 H8313

אֵין לְפָנֶיךָ הַנְּפָשָׁת מִן־אֶת־יְהוָה
H369 H3852 from the power of the flame themselves from the power of the flame H3027
H853 H5315 H3857

נְאָזְנוֹ לְשָׁבֵת לְחַמֵּם מִן־לְתָאָרֶב
H5048 H3427 H217 H2552 to sit at nor fire to warm there shall not be a coal H1513

Additional Cross-References

Nahum 1:10 (Parallel theme): For while they be folded together as thorns, and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.

Malachi 4:1 (Parallel theme): For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

Isaiah 41:2 (Parallel theme): Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? he gave them as the dust to his sword, and as driven stubble to his bow.

Isaiah 10:17 (Parallel theme): And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briars in one day;

Matthew 10:28 (Parallel theme): And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Ezekiel 15:7 (Parallel theme): And I will set my face against them; they shall go out from one fire, and another fire shall devour them; and ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I set my face against them.

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