

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

הֵי וְהֵי הֵ	כִקֵּשׁ	אֵשׁ	שָׂרָפָה תָם	לֹא	
H2009	H1961			H3808	
Behold they shall be as stubble		the fire	shall burn		
	H7179	H784	H8313		
יִצְּ יָלֹוּ	אֶת	נִפְשָׁם	מִיָּד	לִהְבֵּה הֵ	אֵין
H5337	H853	H5315	H3027	H3852	H369
them they shall not deliver		themselves	from the power	of the flame	
גַּח לֹת	לִחְמָם	אֹר	לֹשׁ בָּת	נִגְדָּו:	
H1513	H2552	H217	H3427	H5048	
there shall not be a coal	to warm	at nor fire	to sit		

Additional Cross-References

Nahum 1:10 (Parallel theme): For while they be folden 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 briers 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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