

Isaiah 5:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.

Analysis

Sheol (the grave/realm of death) personified as having insatiable appetite—opening 'her mouth without measure'—depicts death's voracious consumption of Jerusalem's glory, pomp, and multitude. The imagery anticipates Proverbs 27:20 ('hell and destruction are never full') and Jesus' depiction of hell's finality (Matthew 25:46). Death's indiscriminate consumption of nobles and commoners alike demonstrates that apart from God, earthly distinction offers no protection from mortality.

Historical Context

Warfare, siege, and exile filled Sheol with Judean dead. The personification emphasizes death's terrifying power when divine protection is removed.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does death's 'measureless' appetite underscore the urgency of the gospel?
2. What 'pomp' and 'multitude' do we trust in that will ultimately descend to the grave?

Interlinear Text

לִּכְיָהּ H3651	הִרְחִיבָהּ hath enlarged H7337	שָׂאוֹל Therefore hell H7585	נִפְשָׁהּ herself H5315	וּפָתְחָהּ and opened H6473	פִּיהָ her mouth H6310	לִבָּלִי H1097
חִן without measure H2706	יֵכֵד shall descend H3381	הִדְבָּהּ and their glory H1926	וְהַמֹּנֶה and their multitude H1995	וְשֹׂאוֹנָהּ and their pomp H7588		
וְעַל זֶה and he that rejoiceth H5938	בָּהּ: H0					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 30:16 (Parallel theme): The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough.

Luke 21:34 (Parallel theme): And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

Habakkuk 2:5 (Parallel theme): Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people:

Psalms 55:15 (Parallel theme): Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.

Proverbs 27:20 (Parallel theme): Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

Matthew 7:13 (Parallel theme): Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Isaiah 30:33 (Parallel theme): For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.

Isaiah 14:9 (Parallel theme): Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.

Isaiah 21:4 (Parallel theme): My heart panted, fearfulness affrighted me: the night of my pleasure hath he turned into fear unto me.

Psalms 49:14 (Parallel theme): Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.