

Isaiah 5:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Analysis

The agricultural imagery of stubble consumed by flame and chaff by fire depicts swift, total judgment. The cause-effect relationship—'because they have cast away the law of the LORD'—directly links judgment to covenant rebellion. Despising 'the word of the Holy One of Israel' compounds rejection: not mere neglect but active contempt. This anticipates John Baptist's warning of unquenchable fire consuming chaff (Matthew 3:12) and Hebrews' warning that willful sin after knowing truth brings fearful judgment (Hebrews 10:26-27).

Historical Context

Despite possessing God's law and prophetic word, Judah rejected both. This inexcusable rebellion—spurning divine revelation—sealed their judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the privilege of possessing Scripture heighten accountability for rejecting it?
2. In what ways might we functionally 'despise' God's word despite claiming to value it?

Interlinear Text

לִכְן H3651	כָּאֶךְ ל H398	קֶשׁ H7179	לֶשׁ וֹן H3956	אֵשׁ H784	וְחֶשׂ שׁ H2842
	devoureth	the stubble	and the flame	Therefore as the fire	the chaff
לְהִבָּה H3852	יִרְפֶּה ה H7503	שִׁרְשָׁם H8328	כִּמְ ק H4716	יְהִי ה H1961	
	consumeth	so their root	shall be as rottenness		
וּפְרִיָם H6525	כָּאֶבֶךְ ק H80	יֵעַל ה H5927	כִּי H3588	מֵאֵס ו H3988	אֵת H853
and their blossom	as dust	shall go up	because they have cast away		
תּוֹרַת H8451	יְהוָה ה H3068	צָבָא וְ H6635	וְאֵת H853	אֱמַר ת H565	קִדּוֹשׁ H6918
the law	of the LORD	of hosts	the word	of the Holy One	of Israel
וְנִאָצַּו H5006					
and despised					

Additional Cross-References

Job 18:16 (Parallel theme): His roots shall be dried up beneath, and above shall his branch be cut off.

Isaiah 30:12 (Holy): Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon:

Luke 3:17 (Parallel theme): Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

Joel 2:5 (Parallel theme): Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.

Isaiah 47:14 (Parallel theme): 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.

Isaiah 30:9 (Word): That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD:

Exodus 15:7 (Parallel theme): And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.