

Isaiah 5:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if one look unto the land, behold darkness and sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof.

Analysis

The concluding imagery of roaring against Judah 'like the roaring of the sea' and 'darkness and sorrow' with dimmed light depicts overwhelming, inescapable judgment. Sea roaring suggests chaos and threat (Psalm 46:3), while darkness symbolizes absence of hope and guidance. The phrase 'the light is darkened in the heavens thereof' may indicate ecological devastation or symbolize divine presence withdrawal. This apocalyptic imagery anticipates Joel's day of the LORD characterized by darkness (Joel 2:2, 31).

Historical Context

Siege warfare brought literal darkness through smoke and devastation. Spiritually, divine presence withdrawal left Judah in covenant darkness, fulfilling curse threats.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the 'darkness' of judgment contrast with light imagery associated with divine presence?
2. What hope exists even when 'light is darkened'—does grace ultimately triumph over judgment?

Interlinear Text

וְיִנָּהּ ׀ם	עַל יוֹ	בֵּי ׀ם	הָהּ וְאֵ	כְּנִהָמַת	
they shall roar	H5921	And in that day	H1931	against them like the roaring	
H5098		H3117		H5100	
׀ ׀ם	וְנִבֵּ ט	לְאֵ רֶץ	וְהָיָה	חֹשֶׁךְ	צָר
of the sea	and if one look	unto the land	H2009	behold darkness	and sorrow
H3220	H5027	H776		H2822	H6862
וְאֵ ׀ר	חֹשֶׁךְ ׀	בְּעִרְפִּיָּהּ:			
and the light	is darkened	in the heavens			
H216	H2821	H6183			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 8:22 (Darkness): And they shall look unto the earth; and behold trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish; and they shall be driven to darkness.

Joel 2:10 (Darkness): The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

Revelation 6:12 (Parallel theme): And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

Isaiah 13:10 (Light): For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

Jeremiah 6:23 (Parallel theme): They shall lay hold on bow and spear; they are cruel, and have no mercy; their voice roareth like the sea; and they ride upon horses, set in array as men for war against thee, O daughter of Zion.

Matthew 24:29 (Light): Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

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