

Isaiah 51:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation.

Analysis

The promise 'the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool' depicts the temporary nature of human opposition - persecutors decay while God's people endure. The contrast 'my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation' assures that divine work transcends human lifespans. This encourages long-term faithfulness despite short-term persecution.

Historical Context

Egypt, Assyria, Babylon - all great empires that oppressed Israel - fell to ruin while God's people survived. This pattern repeats throughout history: Roman Empire fell, but church endures. Persecutors are forgotten; martyrs are remembered.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the inevitable decay of your opponents encourage patient endurance of present opposition?
2. What does it mean that God's salvation continues 'from generation to generation' beyond your lifetime?

Interlinear Text

אָכַל מִן	וְאָכַל מִן	צְבָא מִן	צְבָא מִן	צְבָא מִן
H3588 like a garment	shall eat	For the moth	them like wool	shall eat
H899	H398	H6211	H6785	H398
וְאָכַל מִן	וְאָכַל מִן	צְבָא מִן	צְבָא מִן	צְבָא מִן
and the worm	but my righteousness	shall be for ever	H1961	and my salvation
H5580	H6666	H5769		H3444
דָּוִרִים:	דָּוִרִים:	דָּוִרִים:	דָּוִרִים:	דָּוִרִים:
from generation	from generation	from generation	from generation	from generation
H1755	H1755	H1755	H1755	H1755

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 50:9 (Parallel theme): Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.

Isaiah 51:6 (Salvation): Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

Isaiah 66:24 (Parallel theme): And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

Job 4:19 (Parallel theme): How much less in them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which are crushed before the moth?

Luke 1:50 (Parallel theme): And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

Hosea 5:12 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I be unto Ephraim as a moth, and to the house of Judah as rottenness.