

Isaiah 60:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.

Analysis

A sobering warning interrupts the glorious promises: "For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted." The Hebrew *abad* (perish) and *charab* (wasted/destroyed) emphasize complete destruction. This establishes the exclusivity of salvation—submission to God's kingdom is not optional but mandatory. Those who refuse to serve Zion (God's people/kingdom) face certain judgment. From a Reformed perspective, this doesn't teach salvation through submission to the institutional church, but acknowledges that Christ is the only way of salvation (John 14:6, Acts 4:12). To reject Christ and His people is to reject the only means of redemption, resulting in destruction. This parallels Psalm 2:10-12 where kings are commanded to serve the Lord's Anointed or perish. It anticipates Christ's return when those who refuse His lordship will face judgment (Matthew 25:31-46, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10, Revelation 19:11-21). God's mercy to some necessitates justice toward those who persist in rebellion.

Historical Context

Throughout biblical history, nations that opposed God's people faced judgment—Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Edom. Even within Israel, tribes and individuals who rejected God's covenant faced destruction. The prophecy warned Gentile nations: align with God's purposes or face consequences. New Testament fulfillment came in Jerusalem's destruction (AD 70) for rejecting Messiah (Luke 19:41-44), and continues in temporal judgments on persecuting nations. Ultimate fulfillment is the final judgment when all opposition to Christ is destroyed (Revelation 20:11-15).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the exclusivity of salvation through Christ relate to this warning of judgment on nations?
2. What does God's judgment on rebellious nations teach about His righteousness and the seriousness of rejecting His Son?
3. How should the certainty of future judgment motivate evangelistic urgency?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	וְהָגוּ! מִ	וְהַמְּלָכָה	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא	יַעֲבֹד וְיִ
H3588	For the nation	and kingdom	H834	H3808	that will not serve
	H1471	H4467			H5647
יֵאָבֵד דוּ	וְהָגוּ! מִ	יִחָרְבוּ:	יִחָרְבוּ:		
thee shall perish	For the nation	shall be utterly	shall be utterly		
H6	H1471	H2717	H2717		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 54:15 (Parallel theme): Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.

Isaiah 14:2 (Parallel theme): And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors.

Isaiah 41:11 (Parallel theme): Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.

Psalms 2:12 (Parallel theme): Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Daniel 2:35 (Parallel theme): Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Matthew 21:44 (Parallel theme): And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

Luke 19:27 (Kingdom): But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.