

Isaiah 64:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As when the melting fire burneth, the fire causeth the waters to boil, to make thy name known to thine adversaries, that the nations may tremble at thy presence!

Analysis

'As when the melting fire burneth, the fire causeth the waters to boil, to make thy name known to thine adversaries, that the nations may tremble at thy presence!' Fire imagery intensifies - melting, burning, boiling. The purpose: making God's name known and causing nations to tremble. Divine intervention serves revelatory purposes.

Historical Context

Fire frequently accompanies theophany (burning bush, Sinai, Elijah at Carmel). This prayer requests a new fire-manifestation that would make God's power undeniable to all nations.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What would unmistakable divine manifestation accomplish in the world today?

2. How does God make His name known through powerful action?

Interlinear Text

אֵשׁ	תְּבַעַת	אֵשׁ	בְּמֹסֵעַ	מִים	אֵשׁ	כְּלֹדַת	מִים	בְּמֹסֵעַ	אֵשׁ
burneth	fire	As when the melting	causeth the waters	to boil	fire				
H6919	H784	H2003	H4325	H1158	H784				
לְהֹזֶד יְהֹ	שְׁמָךְ	לְאַצְּרִים	מִפְּנֵי יְהֹ	גּוֹיִם					
known	to make thy name	to thine adversaries	at thy presence	that the nations					
H3045	H8034	H6862	H6440	H1471					
יָמַרְאָה:									
may tremble									
H7264									

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 99:1 (Parallel theme): The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved.

Jeremiah 33:9 (Parallel theme): And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

Jeremiah 5:22 (Parallel theme): Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?