

Isaiah 65:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

Analysis

The chapter culminates with reconciliation in creation: "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat." This echoes Isaiah 11:6-9, prophesying dramatic transformation of animal nature—predators becoming herbivores, natural enmities ceasing. The wolf and lamb feeding together, the lion eating straw, symbolize complete peace and restoration. The serpent's curse (Genesis 3:14, "dust shalt thou eat") continues, distinguishing Satan's permanent judgment from creation's restoration. The verse concludes: "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD." Lo-yare'u velo-yashchitu (not hurt and not destroy) promises complete cessation of violence. "My holy mountain" represents God's entire kingdom. From a Reformed perspective, this describes the cosmic scope of redemption. Christ's work reconciles not just people to God but all creation (Colossians 1:20, Romans 8:19-22). The curse is reversed, paradise regained, with one exception—Satan's judgment stands. The new creation is characterized by perfect peace.

Historical Context

The pre-fall creation knew no predation or death (Genesis 1:29-30). The fall brought cosmic curse (Genesis 3:14-19, Romans 8:20-22). This prophecy looks

beyond the cross to the consummation when creation is liberated from bondage to decay (Romans 8:21). Partial fulfillment occurs presently as the gospel transforms human relationships (Galatians 3:28, Ephesians 2:14-16), but complete fulfillment awaits Christ's return and the new creation (Revelation 21:1-5). Then former enemies will dwell in perfect harmony, all violence ceasing, paradise fully restored except for Satan's permanent exile (Revelation 20:10).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the transformation of predator-prey relationships symbolize comprehensive redemption?
2. What does Satan's continued curse (dust as food) teach about the permanence of divine judgment?
3. How does creation's restoration relate to human redemption and the cosmic scope of Christ's work?

Interlinear Text

כַּבְקֵר אֶרְיהָ כְּאֶת דַּיְרָעָ וְיַעַל הַזָּא בָּהּ
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together
H2061 H2924 H7462 H259 H738 H1241

לֹא לְחַמֵּן וְעַפְרֵת בְּנֵי יַעֲכֹל
shall eat straw shall be the serpent's and dust meat
H398 H8401 H5175 H6083 H3899 H3808

אָמַר קָדְשִׁי בְּרֵכֶל יְהֻנָּה יְהֻלָּא יְרֵעָה
They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain saith
H7489 H3808 H7843 H3605 H2022 H6944 H559

יְהֹוָה:
the LORD
H3068

Additional Cross-References

Micah 4:3 (Parallel theme): And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Revelation 14:1 (Parallel theme): And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Isaiah 35:9 (Parallel theme): No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:

Isaiah 65:11 (Holy): But ye are they that forsake the LORD, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a table for that troop, and that furnish the drink offering unto that number.

Acts 9:1 (References Lord): And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

Romans 16:20 (References Lord): And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Zechariah 8:3 (Holy): Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

Ezekiel 43:11 (Parallel theme): And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, shew them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them.

Micah 7:17 (References Lord): They shall lick the dust like a serpent, they shall move out of their holes like worms of the earth: they shall be afraid of the LORD our God, and shall fear because of thee.

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