

Isaiah 66:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

Analysis

The declaration 'to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word' identifies God's chosen dwelling place - not temples but humble hearts. The three characteristics (poor, contrite, trembles at word) describe brokenness over sin and reverence for Scripture. This echoes the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3) - 'Blessed are the poor in spirit' - establishing spiritual poverty as prerequisite for divine presence.

Historical Context

Contrasted with those who built elaborate temple while tolerating sin (v. 3-4), God seeks internal transformation over external religion. The Pharisees' opposite approach (external piety, internal pride) demonstrated why Jesus pronounced woes rather than beatitudes on religious elite.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to be 'poor in spirit' and have a 'contrite' heart before God?
2. How is 'trembling at God's word' different from merely reading or studying Scripture?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	יְמִינִי	וְ	שָׁלֵשׁ	תָּהָה	כָּל	יְמִינִי	וְ	שָׁלֵשׁ	תָּהָה
H853	H3605	H428	For all those things hath mine hand	H3027	made	H1961	H3605		
אַל	לֹה	אַל	לֹה	אַל	לֹה	אַל	לֹה	אַל	לֹה
נָאָמָן				יְהִי הָ		וְ	יְהִי הָ		
				the LORD			the LORD		
H5002				H3068			H3068		
אֶבֶן	יְמִינִי	אַל	לֹה	עֲמָלֵךְ	וְ	אַל	לֹה	עֲמָלֵךְ	וְ
but to this man will I look	H413	even to him that is poor		and of a contrite		but to this man will I look	H413	even to him that is poor	
H5027		H6041		H5223		H5027		H6041	
דָּבְרֵי	עַל	וְ	לֹה	וְ	לֹה	דָּבְרֵי	עַל	וְ	לֹה
and trembleth	H5921	at my word				and trembleth	H5921	at my word	
H2730		H1697				H2730		H1697	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 57:15 (Spirit): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Psalms 34:18 (Spirit): The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalms 51:17 (Spirit): The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Philippians 2:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Proverbs 28:14 (Parallel theme): Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

Psalms 138:6 (References Lord): Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

Psalms 119:120 (Parallel theme): My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.

Isaiah 61:1 (Spirit): The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

Isaiah 66:5 (Word): Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.

Habakkuk 3:16 (Parallel theme): When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.