

Isaiah 66:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence to his enemies.

Analysis

A mysterious voice announces judgment: "A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence to his enemies." Three parallel phrases build intensity—noise from the city, voice from the temple, then revealed as the LORD's voice. The Hebrew *qol* (voice) and *shaon* (noise/tumult) suggest a loud, decisive announcement. God renders *gemul* (recompense) to His enemies—settling accounts, executing justice. The ambiguity about whether this is destruction or deliverance (or both) fits Isaiah's style. It could reference judgment on Jerusalem's enemies or on Jerusalem itself for apostasy. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates that God's voice brings either salvation or judgment—it's never neutral. The same gospel is the aroma of life to some, death to others (2 Corinthians 2:15-16). God's presence brings joy to His people and terror to His enemies. The temple/city imagery may point toward AD 70 when judgment came on apostate Jerusalem, or eschatologically to final judgment when Christ returns in glory.

Historical Context

This prophecy was partially fulfilled when Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and the temple (586 BC)—God's voice of judgment on His own people for covenant violation. It was fulfilled again in AD 70 when Rome destroyed the second temple—judgment on apostate Israel for rejecting Messiah (Matthew 23:37-38, 24:1-2, Luke 19:41-44). The pattern continues: God's voice brings decisive judgment or

salvation. Ultimate fulfillment comes at Christ's return when He judges His enemies and vindicates His people (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10, Revelation 19:11-21).

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's voice function as both salvation for His people and judgment for His enemies?
2. What does the ambiguity of this prophecy teach about multiple levels of fulfillment?
3. How should we understand God's judgment coming 'from the temple'—His own dwelling place?

Interlinear Text

ק ול	שֶׁאוֹן	יָמֵעִיר	ק ול	מִהֵיכָל	ק ול	יְהוָה
A voice	of noise	from the city	A voice	from the temple	A voice	of the LORD
H6963	H7588	H5892	H6963	H1964	H6963	H3068
מְשַׁלֵּם	גָּמ ול	לְאֹיְבָיו:				
that rendereth	recompence	to his enemies				
H7999	H1576	H341				

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