

Job 21:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His eyes shall see his destruction, and he shall drink of the wrath of the Almighty.

Analysis

The sinner should experience judgment: 'Let him drink of the wrath of the Almighty.' Job wants the wicked themselves to experience divine wrath, not escape through death or have only their children suffer. The cup metaphor for divine wrath appears throughout Scripture (Psalm 75:8, Revelation 14:10). Job's desire for just judgment isn't vindictive but reflects proper moral sense that evil should be punished.

Historical Context

The cup of God's wrath was common ancient Near Eastern imagery for divine judgment. Drinking the cup meant experiencing full consequences. Job's desire that the wicked themselves drink this cup reflects concern for genuine justice, not transferred punishment.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do we distinguish appropriate desire for justice from vindictive revenge?

2. What does Christ drinking the cup of God's wrath mean for believers' judgment?
3. How does substitutionary atonement satisfy both justice and mercy?

Interlinear Text

וְיָרָא	וְעִתִּים	כִּידָן	וְמִקְרָם	שְׁחִיא	וְשְׁפָה:
shall see	His eyes	his destruction	of the wrath	of the Almighty	and he shall drink
H7200	H5869	H3589	H2534	H7706	H8354

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 14:10 (Judgment): The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Isaiah 51:17 (Parallel theme): Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem, which hast drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of his fury; thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling, and wrung them out.

Psalms 75:8 (Parallel theme): For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org