

Obadiah 1:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been.

Analysis

For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually—God addresses either Edom and nations who celebrated on Zion's ruins, or Jews who experienced judgment. "Drunk upon my holy mountain" (שְׁתִּיקְמֶה עַל-הָר קֶדֶשׁ, shetitem al-har qodshi) likely refers to nations celebrating Jerusalem's fall, drinking victory wine on Mount Zion. The principle of reciprocal judgment: as you drank in celebration, so nations will drink God's wrath. "All the heathen drink continually" (וִשְׁתָוּ כָל-גּוֹיִם תָּמִיד, yishtu chol-haggoym tamid)—perpetual drinking of judgment.

Yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been (וְשָׁתָוּ וְלֹעֲוָה כְּלֹא בָּיו, veshatu vela'u vehayu khelo hayu)—progressive intensification: drinking, gulping down, disappearing into non-existence. The cup of God's wrath is a pervasive biblical metaphor (Psalm 75:8, Isaiah 51:17, Jeremiah 25:15-29, Revelation 14:10, 16:19). Those who celebrate God's people's suffering will drink this cup themselves. Yet Christ drank the cup of God's wrath in our place (Matthew 26:39, 42), allowing believers to drink the cup of salvation (Psalm 116:13) and blessing at the Lord's Table (1 Corinthians 10:16).

Historical Context

When Jerusalem fell (586 BC), surrounding nations—including Edom—celebrated, perhaps literally drinking victory wine on Zion's ruins. But God decreed reciprocal

judgment: they would drink the wine of His wrath. Jeremiah 25:15-29 commands the prophet to make all nations drink the cup of God's fury, specifically including Edom. Historically, this was fulfilled as Edom and other nations faced conquest and judgment. Ultimately, all who rebel against God will 'drink and swallow down' judgment until they cease to exist. Only those who trust Christ—who drank judgment's cup for us—escape this fate.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the metaphor of drinking God's wrath cup communicate the reality and horror of divine judgment?
2. In what ways does Christ's drinking the cup of God's wrath (Matthew 26:39) demonstrate substitutionary atonement?
3. How should the certainty of judgment on those who celebrate God's people's suffering shape believers' response to persecution?

Interlinear Text

כָּלְשׁוֹן כָּלְשׁוֹן
H3588 H834 For as ye have drunk H8354

עַל כָּרְבָּן
H5921 H2022 mountain upon my holy

H6944

כָּלְשׁוֹן כָּלְשׁוֹן
H3605 H1471 so shall all the heathen

תִּמְדֵן
H8548 continually

כָּלְשׁוֹן כָּלְשׁוֹן
H8354 H8354 For as ye have drunk

כָּלְשׁוֹן כָּלְשׁוֹן
H1961 H3808 and they shall swallow down and they shall be as though they had not

תִּלְעַל
H3886

תִּלְעַל
H1961

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 49:12 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the LORD; Behold, they whose judgment was not to drink of the cup have assuredly drunken; and art thou he that shall altogether go unpunished? thou shalt not go unpunished, but thou shalt surely drink of it.

Joel 3:17 (Holy): So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

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