

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" (שְׁתִּיתֶם עַל־הַר קֹדֶשׁ, 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" (וְיִשְׁתּוּ כָּל־הַגּוֹיִם תָּמִיד, yishtu chol-haggoyim tamid)—perpetual drinking of judgment.

Yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been (וְיִשְׁתּוּ וְלָעוּ וְהָיוּ כִּלְאוּא הָיוּ, 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

כִּי	כָּאֲשֶׁר	רָכַסְתָּ	עַל	הַר	קֹדֶשׁ י
H3588	H834		H5921	H2022	H6944
		For as ye have drunk		mountain	upon my holy
		H8354			
	רָכַסְתָּ	כָּל	הַגּוֹיִם	תָּמִיד	רָכַסְתָּ
		H3605		H8548	H8354
	For as ye have drunk	so shall all the heathen	continually	For as ye have drunk	
	H8354	H1471			
	וְלָעוּ	וְהָיוּ	כֹּל וְאֵל	הָיוּ:	
		H1961		H1961	
	and they shall swallow down	and they shall be as though they had not			
	H3886	H3808			

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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