

Psalm 11:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.

Analysis

This verse describes God's judgment using the imagery of Sodom and Gomorrah—fire, brimstone, and scorching wind. The 'cup' metaphor appears throughout Scripture as God's wrath (Jeremiah 25:15, Revelation 14:10). Reformed theology sees this as God's active judgment, not mere natural consequences. The 'portion of their cup' indicates appointed, measured judgment—God's justice is exact, not capricious.

Historical Context

Written with reference to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19), which became Israel's paradigmatic example of divine judgment against wickedness.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you reconcile God's love with His wrath against sin?
2. What does the certainty of judgment teach about the seriousness of sin?

Interlinear Text

רַעַם	עַל	יָמְטָר	אֵשׁ	פָּרָשָׁת	רַעַם	וְעַל	יָמְטָר
he shall rain	H5921	Upon the wicked	snares	fire	and brimstone	tempest	
H4305		H7563	H6341	H784	H1614		H7307

וְעַל	מִנְתָּה	כָּלֹסֶם:
and an horrible	this shall be the portion	of their cup

H2152	H4521	H3563
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Additional Cross-References

Genesis 19:24 (Parallel theme): Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

Ezekiel 38:22 (Parallel theme): And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

Ezekiel 13:13 (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even rend it with a stormy wind in my fury; and there shall be an overflowing shower in mine anger, and great hailstones in my fury to consume it.

Psalms 75:8 (Evil): 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.

Luke 17:29 (Parallel theme): But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

Job 20:23 (Parallel theme): When he is about to fill his belly, God shall cast the fury of his wrath upon him, and shall rain it upon him while he is eating.

Job 18:15 (Parallel theme): It shall dwell in his tabernacle, because it is none of his: brimstone shall be scattered upon his habitation.

Psalms 105:32 (Parallel theme): He gave them hail for rain, and flaming fire in their land.

John 18:11 (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

Habakkuk 2:16 (Parallel theme): Thou art filled with shame for glory: drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncovered: the cup of the LORD'S right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing shall be on thy glory.

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