

Psalm 2:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

Analysis

After depicting inevitable judgment, the psalmist issues a gracious warning to rulers: there is still time to repent and submit. The Hebrew 'sakal' (be wise) implies not mere intellectual knowledge but practical application of truth. 'Be instructed' (yasar) carries the sense of receiving discipline or correction. This verse demonstrates God's redemptive heart even toward His enemies - judgment is always His strange work (Isaiah 28:21), preceded by calls to repentance. True wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 9:10).

Historical Context

In David's time, this served as both warning and invitation to neighboring kings to submit to Israel's God. The prophets later expanded this theme, calling all nations to acknowledge Yahweh. Paul echoes this in Romans 2:4, noting that God's kindness is meant to lead to repentance.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you demonstrate that you value God's wisdom above worldly sophistication?
2. Who in your sphere of influence needs to hear the gospel warning and invitation?

Interlinear Text

שׁ פְּנֵי הַ תָּסֶר וְ הַשְׁכֵּן לְלִבְנֵיכֶם אַתָּה עַפְתָּה
H6258 now therefore O ye kings H4428 Be wise H7919 be instructed H3256 ye judges H8199

אָרֶץ
of the earth
H776

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 14:9 (Parallel theme): Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.

Isaiah 60:3 (Kingdom): And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Psalms 45:12 (Parallel theme): And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour.

Isaiah 52:15 (Kingdom): So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

Isaiah 49:23 (Kingdom): And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

Jeremiah 6:8 (Parallel theme): Be thou instructed, O Jerusalem, lest my soul depart from thee; lest I make thee desolate, a land not inhabited.

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