

Psalms 21:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them.

Analysis

The imagery of God's wrath as a 'fiery oven' consuming enemies reveals His holy hatred of sin and sovereign judgment. Reformed theology emphasizes God's wrath as a necessary attribute of His holiness—He cannot tolerate evil. This verse anticipates final judgment when God's enemies will face His consuming fire (2 Thess. 1:7-9). The king serves as God's instrument, but ultimate judgment belongs to the LORD alone.

Historical Context

Fiery ovens were used for metalworking and pottery—materials were completely consumed or transformed. This metaphor would resonate with ancient audiences familiar with industrial furnaces. The verse assures God's people that evil will be utterly destroyed.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's wrath deepen your appreciation for Christ's substitutionary atonement?
2. What should the certainty of divine judgment motivate in your life today?

Interlinear Text

תַּשִּׁית מֹן	כֶּתֶנּוּ וֹר	אֵשׁ:	לַעֲת	פָּנֶי יָב	! הָיָה
Thou shalt make	oven	and the fire	in the time	of thine anger	the LORD
H7896	H8574	H784	H6256	H6440	H3068
בְּאַפּוֹ	יִבְלַע מִן	וְתֹאכַל מִן	אֵשׁ:		
in his wrath	shall swallow them up	shall devour	and the fire		
H639	H1104	H398	H784		

Additional Cross-References

Malachi 4:1 (References Lord): For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

Psalms 50:3 (Parallel theme): Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.

Psalms 18:8 (Parallel theme): There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

Lamentations 2:2 (Judgment): The Lord hath swallowed up all the habitations of Jacob, and hath not pitied: he hath thrown down in his wrath the strong holds of the daughter of Judah; he hath brought them down to the ground: he hath polluted the kingdom and the princes thereof.

2 Thessalonians 1:8 (References Lord): In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Isaiah 26:11 (References Lord): LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them.

Psalms 2:5 (Judgment): Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

Psalms 2:12 (Judgment): Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Nahum 1:6 (Parallel theme): Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

Deuteronomy 32:22 (Parallel theme): For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.