

Amos 8:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst.

Analysis

In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst (בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא bayom hahu tit'alafnah hab'tulot hayafot v'habachurim batzama)—Young, vigorous people (בְּתוּלוֹת, betulot, 'virgins'; בַּחֲוִירִים, bachurim, 'young men') typically most resilient will 'faint' (אָלַף, alaf, 'grow faint, languish'). But this is spiritual thirst (אָמָץ, tzama), not physical—they faint from lack of God's Word (8:11-12), not water.

This emphasizes spiritual famine's devastating completeness: even the strong cannot endure. Jesus promised the opposite to those who come to Him: 'whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst' (John 4:14). Rejecting Living Water results in unquenchable spiritual thirst.

Historical Context

This prophecy describes the post-exilic state of the northern tribes. Scattered among pagan nations without temple, priesthood, or prophets, they spiritually withered. Later, Jesus found Israel in similar spiritual famine—shepherdless sheep whom religious leaders had failed to feed (Matthew 9:36).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do people today spiritually 'faint for thirst' despite having physical Bibles accessible everywhere?
2. What's the difference between spiritual thirst that drives people to God versus the judgment-famine where His Word becomes unavailable?
3. How should this warning motivate believers to drink deeply from God's Word while it remains accessible?

Interlinear Text

בִּי וּם	הָהּ וָא	תִּתְעַלֶּפֶנָּה	הַבְּתוּלָּת	הַיָּפֹת	וְהַבָּחוּרִים
In that day	H1931	faint	virgins	shall the fair	and young men
H3117		H5968	H1330	H3303	H970
בְּצָמָא:					
for thirst					
H6772					

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 2:3 (Parallel theme): Lest I strip her naked, and set her as in the day that she was born, and make her as a wilderness, and set her like a dry land, and slay her with thirst.

Lamentations 2:21 (Parallel theme): The young and the old lie on the ground in the streets: my virgins and my young men are fallen by the sword; thou hast slain them in the day of thine anger; thou hast killed, and not pitied.

Lamentations 1:18 (Parallel theme): The LORD is righteous; for I have rebelled against his commandment: hear, I pray you, all people, and behold my sorrow: my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity.

