

Ezekiel 15:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Son of man, What is the vine tree more than any tree, or than a branch which is among the trees of the forest?

Analysis

The rhetorical question highlights that vine wood is useless for construction or tools—its sole value lies in bearing fruit. This illustrates that Israel's purpose was to glorify God and bless the nations (Genesis 12:3), not to be valued for inherent national greatness. When covenant people fail their calling, they become worthless like unfruitful vine wood.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures valued strong timbers like cedar and oak for building. Vine wood was recognized as brittle and unsuitable for carpentry, making this metaphor immediately clear to Ezekiel's audience.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does this passage challenge contemporary notions of self-worth apart from fulfilling God's purposes?
2. What fruit is God seeking in your life that demonstrates genuine faith?

Interlinear Text

בֶּן	אָדָם	מִה	יְהוָה	יְבֶעֱצִי	הֲגֵן פֶּן	מִכֶּל
Son	of man	H4100	H1961	more than any tree	What is the vine	H3605
H1121	H120			H6086	H1612	
יְבֶעֱצִי	הַזְמוּחַ	הֲאֵשׁ	הֲגֵן	יְבֶעֱצִי		
more than any tree	or than a branch	H834	H1961	more than any tree		
H6086	H2156			H6086		
הָעֵר:						
of the forest						
H3293						

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 10:1 (Parallel theme): Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images.
