

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

מֶלֶךְ הָאָדָם
King of man

מִתְּבָאֵל בְּנֵי פְּנֵי
more than any tree

מִתְּבָאֵל בְּנֵי פְּנֵי
What is the vine

מִתְּבָאֵל בְּנֵי פְּנֵי
H1961 H1612 H3605

מִתְּבָאֵל בְּנֵי פְּנֵי
more than any tree

מִתְּבָאֵל בְּנֵי פְּנֵי
H6086 H2156 H1961

מִתְּבָאֵל בְּנֵי פְּנֵי
more than any tree

מִתְּבָאֵל בְּנֵי פְּנֵי
H6086 H1961

תְּבָאֵל
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.

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