

Ezekiel 31:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All the fowls of heaven made their nests in his boughs, and under his branches did all the beasts of the field bring forth their young, and under his shadow dwelt all great nations.

Analysis

All creatures found shelter in Assyria's branches and shadow—vassal nations depended on her. Yet dependence on empires rather than God creates false security. When the cedar falls, all dependent creatures are exposed. This teaches that only God provides ultimate security; human kingdoms eventually fail their dependents.

Historical Context

Assyria's vassal system included dozens of nations paying tribute and seeking protection. When Assyria fell, these nations faced invasion from Babylon. Dependence on empire proved disastrous when the empire collapsed.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What human institutions, systems, or relationships are you depending on for security that might fail?

2. How can you build your life on the solid foundation of God's faithfulness rather than contingent earthly supports?

Interlinear Text

בְּסַעֲפֹתַי	קִנְּנוּ	כָּל	עוֹף	הַשָּׁמַיִם	וְהַחַיִּים
in his boughs	made their nests	H3605	All the fowls	of heaven	H8478
H5589	H7077		H5775	H8064	
וּפְאַרְתָּיו	וְיָלְדוּ	כָּל	חַיֵּי הַ	הַשָּׂדֶה	
and under his branches	bring forth their young	H3605	did all the beasts	of the field	
H6288	H3205		H2416	H7704	
וּבְצִלּוֹ	יָשָׁב	כָּל	גּוֹיִם	כְּבִידִים	
and under his shadow	dwelt	H3605	nations	all great	
H6738	H3427		H1471	H7227	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 13:32 (Parallel theme): Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

Ezekiel 17:23 (Parallel theme): In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it: and it shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar: and under it shall dwell all fowl of every wing; in the shadow of the branches thereof shall they dwell.

Daniel 4:12 (Parallel theme): The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.

Daniel 4:21 (Parallel theme): Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation: