

Hebrews 6:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is
nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.

Analysis

Conversely, land producing 'thorns and briers' is rejected and near to being cursed,' ending in burning. This echoes Genesis 3:18 (curse) and Jesus's teaching (Matthew 13:22). The phrase 'near to being cursed' may suggest not final damnation but serious danger. However, Reformed theology sees persistent barrenness as evidence of non-regeneration. True believers will produce fruit, though imperfectly; perpetual fruitlessness indicates absence of saving faith.

Historical Context

Burning fields was common agricultural practice to clear them for new planting, but the imagery also evokes eschatological judgment by fire (2 Peter 3:10). The readers would understand the serious warning.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What 'thorns and briers' in your life choke out fruitfulness?

2. How does the warning of being 'near to cursing' motivate examination of your spiritual fruitfulness?

Interlinear Text

ἐκφέρουσα	δὲ	ἀκάνθας	καὶ	τριβόλους	ἀδόκιμος	καὶ
that which beareth	But	thorns	and	briers	is rejected	and
G1627	G1161	G173	G2532	G5146	G96	G2532
κατάρας	ἐγγύς	ἧς	τὸ	τέλος	εἰς	καῦσιν
unto cursing	is nigh	whose	G3588	end	is to	be burned
G2671	G1451	G3739		G5056	G1519	G2740

Additional Cross-References

John 15:6 (Parallel theme): If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

Deuteronomy 29:28 (Parallel theme): And the LORD rooted them out of their land in anger, and in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day.

Jeremiah 44:22 (Parallel theme): So that the LORD could no longer bear, because of the evil of your doings, and because of the abominations which ye have committed; therefore is your land a desolation, and an astonishment, and a curse, without an inhabitant, as at this day.

Hebrews 12:17 (Sin): For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

Hebrews 10:27 (Parallel theme): But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.