

Isaiah 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

Analysis

The prophetic perfect tense describes imminent judgment as already accomplished. Three parallel descriptions of devastation (desolate country, burned cities, devoured land) emphasize comprehensive destruction. The presence of 'strangers' fulfilling covenant curses (Deuteronomy 28:33) compounds the tragedy—God's promised land plundered by pagans due to covenant unfaithfulness.

Historical Context

Isaiah witnessed Assyrian invasions (701 BC) that devastated Judah's countryside, leaving Jerusalem barely surviving. This verse may reflect those campaigns or prophetically anticipate Babylon's later destruction.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What 'promised land' blessings are you risking through unfaithfulness to God?

2. How does God use external circumstances to call you back to covenant faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

אַרְצְךָ מְ	וּשְׁמָהּ ה	עָרֶיךָ מְ	שָׂרֵפּ וְ	אֵשׁ	אֲדָמָתְךָ מְ
Your country	is desolate	your cities	are burned	with fire	your land
H776	H8077	H5892	H8313	H784	H127
לְנִגְדְּכֶם	זָרִים:	אָכַל יִם	אֶתְּ ה	וּשְׁמָהּ ה	כַּמְהֵרָא ת
H5048	by strangers	devour	H853	is desolate	as overthrown
	H2114	H398		H8077	H4114

זָרִים:

by strangers
H2114

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 28:33 (Parallel theme): The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up; and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed alway:

Deuteronomy 28:43 (Parallel theme): The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low.

Lamentations 5:2 (Parallel theme): Our inheritance is turned to strangers, our houses to aliens.

Ezekiel 30:12 (Parallel theme): And I will make the rivers dry, and sell the land into the hand of the wicked: and I will make the land waste, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers: I the LORD have spoken it.

Hosea 7:9 (Parallel theme): Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not.

2 Chronicles 28:5 (Parallel theme): Wherefore the LORD his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria; and they smote him, and carried away a great

multitude of them captives, and brought them to Damascus. And he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who smote him with a great slaughter.

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