

Isaiah 10:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore shall the Lord, the Lord of hosts, send among his fat ones leanness; and under his glory he shall kindle a burning like the burning of a fire.

Analysis

God's judgment on Assyria is described as 'leanness' (wasting disease) among their fat ones (warriors/nobles) and 'burning like fire' under their glory. The imagery suggests consuming judgment—what appeared strong and glorious will be devoured. This demonstrates poetic justice—Assyria consumed nations, so God will consume Assyria. The physical descriptions (leanness, burning) may indicate literal plague and destruction, or metaphorically depict comprehensive judgment.

Historical Context

Fulfilled dramatically when God's angel destroyed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers besieging Jerusalem (701 BC, Isaiah 37:36). Sennacherib returned to Nineveh and was later assassinated by his sons (37:37-38). Ultimately, Babylon destroyed Nineveh (612 BC) with such completeness that the city burned for weeks, its 'glory' literally consumed. The 'leanness' and 'burning' proved both literal and metaphorical.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's judgment often mirror the sins committed—poetic justice?
2. What does the contrast between outward glory and coming leanness teach about appearances?
3. How should we view worldly power and glory in light of its temporary nature?

Interlinear Text

בְּמִשְׁמֶןּוּ יְהִי	אֶבֶן וְתִּהְבַּשֵּׁל כִּי	בְּאָדָן	וְיְשַׁלֵּחַ	לְכִי	H3651	send	Therefore shall the Lord	H113	H3068	of hosts	among his fat ones	H4924
					H7971			H113	H6635			
לְכִי	אֶבֶן וְתִּהְבַּשֵּׁל כִּי	בְּאָדָן	וְיְשַׁלֵּחַ	לְכִי								
leanness	H8478	and under his glory	H3519	he shall kindle	H3344	a burning	H3350	a burning	H3350			
H7332												
אֲשָׁה:												
like the burning of a fire												
	H784											

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 32:21 (References Lord): And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword.

Psalms 106:15 (Parallel theme): And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

