

Isaiah 10:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And shall consume the glory of his forest, and of his fruitful field, both soul and body: and they shall be as when a standardbearer fainteth.

Analysis

Assyria's glory—forest and fruitful field—will be consumed so thoroughly that what remains can be counted by a child. The double metaphor (forest and fruitful field) suggests both wild strength and cultivated prosperity will be destroyed. The phrase 'both soul and body' indicates comprehensive judgment affecting everything. The hyperbole of remnants being countable by a child emphasizes near-total destruction. This illustrates that no human glory can stand against divine judgment.

Historical Context

After Sennacherib's army was destroyed (701 BC), Assyria never recovered its former dominance. Though it persisted another century, its power was broken. Final destruction came in 612 BC when Babylon and Medes conquered Nineveh. Archaeological excavations reveal massive destruction—the great Assyrian empire reduced to ruins. What once seemed invincible became so insignificant 'a child might write' the survivors' count.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God humble the apparently invincible and reduce the great to insignificance?
2. What does this comprehensive judgment teach about the folly of trusting in human power?
3. How should we view contemporary powers in light of God's track record of humbling empires?

Interlinear Text

בָּשָׁר יְעֵד מִתְּפָשֵׁת יְכָבֵד וְיִצְרָמֵל וְיִעָּרֵז וְיִכְּבָד וְיִכְּבָד

the glory of his forest and of his fruitful field both soul and body

H3519 H3293 H3759 H5315 H5704 H1320

נִסָּא: כַּמְסָס וְבֵן הַיּוֹם יְכַל הַיּוֹם
And shall consume H1961 fainteth and they shall be as when a standardbearer
H3615 H4549 H5263

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 19:23 (Parallel theme): By thy messengers thou hast reproached the Lord, and hast said, With the multitude of my chariots I am come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon, and will cut down the tall cedar trees thereof, and the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the lodgings of his borders, and into the forest of his Carmel.

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