

Isaiah 10:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the rest of the trees of his forest shall be few, that a child may write them.

Analysis

After divine judgment, Assyria's once-mighty forest (metaphor for its army and empire) will be so reduced that 'a child may write them'—meaning count them, since children were learning numerals. From invincible superpower to pitiful remnant: this is God's reversal of human pride. The 'rest of the trees' emphasizes how few will survive. This prophecy was fulfilled when 185,000 Assyrian soldiers died in one night (Isaiah 37:36), and ultimately when the Assyrian Empire fell to Babylon in 612-609 BC. What seemed permanent proved temporary; what seemed invincible proved vulnerable before God's decree.

Historical Context

The forest metaphor connects to Lebanon's famous cedars, symbols of strength and majesty (see Isaiah 10:33-34). Assyrian annals record massive armies—Sennacherib claimed 200,150 captives from Judah alone in 701 BC. Yet his army withdrew suddenly from Jerusalem, and Assyria never recovered its former dominance. Within a century, the empire collapsed. Archaeological evidence shows Nineveh's destruction was so complete that even its location was forgotten until 19th-century excavations rediscovered it.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What 'forests' in our world seem permanent and invincible, yet stand under God's judgment?
2. How should the rise and fall of empires shape our confidence in temporary vs. eternal kingdoms?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׂר	עַץ	יֶעֶר	מִסְפָּר	יְהִי	וְנַעַר	יִכְתְּבֶם:
And the rest	of the trees	of his forest	shall be few	H1961	that a child	may write
H7605	H6086	H3293	H4557		H5288	H3789

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