

Isaiah 10:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, and Lebanon shall fall by a mighty one.

Analysis

The imagery shifts to God as divine forester, cutting down the proud. 'The thickets of the forest' represents Assyria's dense army. God will 'cut them down with iron'—decisive judgment. 'Lebanon shall fall by a mighty one' continues the metaphor—Lebanon's famous tall cedars represent Assyria's pride and strength. The 'mighty one' is God Himself. This poetic imagery captures comprehensive judgment: what seems impenetrable forest is cleared, what seems immovable cedar falls. Nothing withstands divine judgment.

Historical Context

Fulfilled when God destroyed Sennacherib's army (701 BC). The forest metaphor proved apt—185,000 soldiers fell in one night like trees before an axe. Sennacherib fled back to Nineveh and was assassinated by his sons (Isaiah 37:38). Assyria's 'cedar'-like pride was humbled. Eventually, Babylon completely destroyed Assyria (612 BC), finishing the prophesied fall.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the forest/cedar imagery illustrate the futility of pride and apparent strength against God?
2. What does it teach that God Himself is the 'mighty one' who executes judgment personally?
3. How should we respond to apparently impenetrable obstacles, knowing God can clear any forest?

Interlinear Text

וְנִקְּרָה	סִבְכֵּי י	הִי עֵר	בְּבִרְזֵן ל	וְהִלָּכְנוּ וְ
And he shall cut down	the thickets	of the forest	with iron	and Lebanon
H5362	H5442	H3293	H1270	H3844
בְּאַדְ יָר	יִפֹּל:			
by a mighty one	shall fall			
H117	H5307			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 37:24 (Parallel theme): By thy servants hast thou reproached the Lord, and hast said, By the multitude of my chariots am I come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon; and I will cut down the tall cedars thereof, and the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the height of his border, and the forest of his Carmel.