

Isaiah 13:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is joined unto them shall fall by the sword.

Analysis

'Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is joined unto them shall fall by the sword.' This is brutal language of conquest—no quarter given, no prisoners taken. Those found (unable to flee) will be killed; those joined with Babylon (allies, mercenaries) share their fate. The Hebrew word for 'thrust through' (daqar) means pierced, stabbed—indicating violent death. This reflects ancient Near Eastern warfare's brutality, but more importantly, it underscores divine judgment's comprehensiveness. Alliance with the wicked brings shared judgment. Friendship with the world is enmity with God (James 4:4).

Historical Context

Ancient warfare was horrifically violent by modern standards. Siege warfare particularly—involving starvation, disease, and final assault—resulted in massive civilian casualties. Archaeological evidence from destroyed cities confirms the brutality Isaiah describes. When Babylon fell (539 BC), the conquest was actually relatively bloodless compared to typical ancient sieges, because internal betrayal facilitated entry. Yet Isaiah's language applies to the broader judgment on Babylon's system and to eschatological judgment. Those 'joined' to Babylon—identifying with her pride, wealth, and idolatry—share her judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse warn about the danger of alliance with worldly systems opposed to God?
2. What does comprehensive judgment teach about the impossibility of neutrality regarding God's kingdom?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא יַפְתַּח אָנָּבָט יְלֹא רַבְבָּשׁוּ וְלֹא

H3605 Every one that is found shall be thrust through H3605
H4672 H1856

וְלֹא יַפְתַּח אָנָּבָט יְלֹא רַבְבָּשׁוּ וְלֹא

and every one that is joined unto them shall fall by the sword
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