

Isaiah 14:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the year that king Ahaz died was this burden.

Analysis

'In the year that king Ahaz died was this burden.' This chronological marker places the following oracle (vv.28-32) in a specific historical moment—732 BC, Ahaz's death. The 'burden' (massa—oracle, prophecy, typically of judgment) concerns Philistia (Palestina). The timing is significant: Ahaz's death marked political transition in Judah, potentially encouraging Philistia to revolt against Assyria or attack Judah. Isaiah's prophecy addresses this political situation with theological truth: God controls outcomes, not human political calculations. The verse reminds us that prophetic word addresses real historical situations, not just timeless generalities.

Historical Context

Ahaz reigned 735-715 BC (2 Kings 16), a period of Assyrian expansion under Tiglath-Pileser III and then Shalmaneser V. Ahaz had made Judah an Assyrian vassal, provoking prophetic condemnation (2 Kings 16:7-9). His death created uncertainty—would his successor (Hezekiah) continue pro-Assyrian policy or rebel? Neighboring states like Philistia watched for opportunity. Isaiah's oracle warns Philistia not to rejoice in whatever changes they anticipated. The specific dating emphasizes prophecy's historical rootedness—God speaks into actual situations, not abstractions.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does prophecy's historical specificity (dated to Ahaz's death) demonstrate Scripture's concrete engagement with real situations?
2. What does God's involvement in political transitions teach about His sovereignty over seemingly secular events?

Interlinear Text

בְּשָׁנָה	מָוֹת	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אַחָז	הָיָה	הַמִּשָּׁא	הַזֶּה:
In the year	died	that king	Ahaz	H1961	was this burden	H2088
H8141	H4194	H4428	H271		H4853	

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 16:20 (Kingdom): And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David: and Hezekiah his son reigned in his stead.

Isaiah 13:1 (Parallel theme): The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see.

2 Chronicles 28:27 (Kingdom): And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, even in Jerusalem: but they brought him not into the sepulchres of the kings of Israel: and Hezekiah his son reigned in his stead.