

Isaiah 14:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the firstborn of the poor shall feed, and the needy shall lie down in safety: and I will kill thy root with famine, and he shall slay thy remnant.

Analysis

'And the firstborn of the poor shall feed, and the needy shall lie down in safety: and I will kill thy root with famine, and he shall slay thy remnant.' Contrast between God's people and Philistia: the poor and needy (likely Israel, often described thus) will be fed and safe, while Philistia faces destruction ('kill thy root with famine,' 'slay thy remnant'). 'Firstborn of the poor' may mean the poorest of the poor or God's people as firstborn. 'Feed' and 'lie down in safety' are covenant blessing language (Leviticus 26:5-6). Meanwhile, Philistia's 'root' (source, foundation) dies via famine, and their remnant (survivors) are slain. Total reversal: the weak are protected; the strong are destroyed.

Historical Context

This prophecy may have been fulfilled when Hezekiah struck Philistia (2 Kings 18:8), or when Assyria devastated the region, or through cumulative judgments. Philistia as a distinct entity gradually disappeared from history, absorbed into other peoples and empires. Meanwhile, Judah—though small, often oppressed, frequently called 'poor and needy'—survived. The principle extends to God's people throughout history: the world despises them, yet God preserves them; empires threaten them, yet they outlast those empires. The church outlasted Rome, outlasted persecutors, and will outlast all opposition because God feeds and protects His own.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the reversal (poor fed, strong destroyed) demonstrate God's values differing from worldly power and wealth?
2. What does God's protection of the 'firstborn of the poor' teach about His care for the weak and marginalized?

Interlinear Text

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| shall feed | And the firstborn | of the poor | and the needy | in safety | shall lie down |
| H7462 | H1060 | H1800 | H34 | H983 | H7257 |

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|-----------------|-------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|
| and I will kill | with famine | thy root | thy remnant | and he shall slay |
| H4191 | H7458 | H8328 | H7611 | H2026 |

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