

Isaiah 14:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.

Analysis

'Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.' Even trees celebrate! This poetic personification shows creation itself rejoices at Babylon's fall. Specifically, Lebanon's famous cedars and fir trees—which Babylonian kings cut down for their building projects—are safe now that the 'feller' (woodcutter/destroyer) is 'laid down' (dead/fallen). This is more than poetry; it's theology: human sin affects creation, and human judgment/restoration affects creation. The trees' joy anticipates Isaiah 55:12 and Romans 8:19-22—creation longs for redemption and will share in it.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kings routinely boasted of harvesting Lebanon's cedars for palace and temple construction. Assyrian and Babylonian inscriptions record expeditions to Lebanon for timber. These magnificent trees—some living thousands of years—were cut down for human pride and luxury. Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon particularly exploited Lebanon's forests for the city's famous constructions. The trees' 'rejoicing' at his fall is poetic justice: what you oppressed celebrates your end. This reminds us that environmental degradation has moral/spiritual dimensions—creation suffers from human sin.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does creation's personification and rejoicing teach about the comprehensive scope of redemption?
2. How should Christian environmental stewardship be shaped by understanding creation as affected by sin and awaiting redemption?

Interlinear Text

גַּם	בְּרוֹשֵׁי יָם	שִׂמְחָה וְ	לְךָ	אֶרֶץ יְ	לְבָנוֹן וְ	מֵאֵז
H1571	Yea the fir trees	rejoice	H0	at thee and the cedars	of Lebanon	H227
	H1265	H8055		H730	H3844	
שָׁכַב בְּתֶ		לֹא	יַעֲלֶה	הַכֵּרֶת	עֲלֵינוּ:	
saying Since thou art laid down		H3808	is come up	no feller	H5921	
H7901			H5927	H3772		

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 31:16 (Parallel theme): I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth.