

# 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

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'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

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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

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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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

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מְאֹד	לְבָנָן	וְلִבְנָן	מִן	לְבָנָן	וְלִבְנָן	מִן
H1571	Yea the fir trees	H1265	שְׁמַחַת	H0	אַרְזֵי	H730
	rejoice	H8055	1	at thee and the cedars	H3844	of Lebanon
						H227
עַלְיָנוּ	פְּכַר	ת	לֹא	שָׁכַב	בְּתַ	
saying	Since thou art laid down	H7901	H3808	H5927	H5921	

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.