

Isaiah 19:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall be broken in the purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish.

Analysis

'And they shall be broken in the purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish.' Aquaculture and water management industries fail. 'Broken in the purposes thereof' indicates frustrated plans—investment and labor proving futile. 'Sluices and ponds for fish' refers to artificial fish ponds and water management systems. When water sources fail, even engineered alternatives collapse. This demonstrates human ingenuity's limitations under divine judgment—technological solutions can't overcome God-ordained resource failure. The progression through industries (navigation, fishing, textiles, aquaculture) shows how divine judgment systematically dismantles economic complexity, reducing civilization to crisis. Reformed theology emphasizes human cultural achievements, while legitimate and part of the creation mandate, remain dependent on divine blessing. Without God's grace, even impressive accomplishments crumble.

Historical Context

Ancient Egyptians developed sophisticated water management—irrigation systems, canals, artificial ponds. Wealthy estates included fish ponds as food sources and status symbols. These engineering achievements represented Egyptian civilization's height. Yet when fundamental water sources failed during crisis periods, even engineered systems couldn't compensate. This illustrates that technological advancement doesn't provide security against divine judgment. Modern parallels exist: advanced agricultural technology fails during extreme drought; sophisticated economics can't prevent recessions; military superiority

doesn't guarantee victory (as Assyria discovered in 701 BCE). Human achievement, however impressive, remains contingent on divine blessing for ultimate success.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What do failed engineered solutions teach about human ingenuity's limits under divine judgment?
2. How does systematic dismantling of economic complexity illustrate judgment's thoroughness?
3. Why can't technological advancement provide security against divine judgments?

Interlinear Text

וְהִי ו	שְׂתֵתָּ יְה	מִדְּכָא יִם	כָּל	עַ שִׁי
H1961	in the purposes	And they shall be broken	H3605	thereof all that make
	H8356	H1792		H6213
שְׁכָר	אֲגָמִי	נָפֶשׁ:		
sluices	and ponds	for fish		
H7938	H99	H5315		
