

Isaiah 19:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish.

Analysis

'The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish.' Economic devastation extends to fishing industry—fishermen mourn because there are no fish to catch. The progression ('cast angle...spread nets') covers different fishing methods, indicating comprehensive failure across all techniques. 'Languish' (amal) means to be feeble, weak—the economic depression affects the workers themselves, not just their trade. This demonstrates how judgment on natural resources (Nile drying up) cascades into unemployment, poverty, and despair among dependent populations. God's judgments are thorough, affecting entire economic ecosystems. The specific mention of fishermen mourning emphasizes the human suffering resulting from divine judgment—God is not indifferent to human pain, yet justice demands response to sin.

Historical Context

Fishing was a major Egyptian industry—Nile fish provided crucial protein for the population. Multiple fishing methods (hooks, nets, traps) were depicted in tomb paintings and reliefs. Dried fish were traded regionally. When Nile levels dropped significantly, fish populations crashed, causing economic hardship for fishing communities and protein shortages for consumers. The prophecy accurately describes how environmental/resource judgments produce unemployment and economic depression—patterns visible throughout history when natural resources

fail. Modern analogies include fishing communities devastated when fish stocks collapse—economic, social, and psychological toll extends far beyond just the resource itself.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do natural resource failures cascade into widespread human suffering?
2. What does specific mention of mourning fishermen teach about God's awareness of judgment's human cost?
3. Why does divine justice require judgment despite awareness of resulting human pain?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה	מִשְׁלִיכִים	כָּל	וְאֶבֶל	בְּתִגְעָם	אַתָּה
also shall mourn	The fishers	shall lament	H3605	and all they that cast	
H578	H1771	H56		H7993	
בַּיאָ וּרְ	מִכְחָה	וּפְרִישׁ	מִכְמָתָרָת	עַל	מִמְּפָנֵי
into the brooks	angle	and they that spread	nets	H5921	upon
H2975	H2443	H6566	H4365	H6440	H4325
אָמַלְלָה:					
shall languish					
H535					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 47:10 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from En-gedi even unto En-eglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

Habakkuk 1:15 (Parallel theme): They take up all of them with the angle, they catch them in their net, and gather them in their drag: therefore they rejoice and are glad.

Numbers 11:5 (Parallel theme): We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

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