

Isaiah 22:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All thy rulers are fled together, they are bound by the archers: all that are found in thee are bound together, which have fled from far.

Analysis

All thy rulers are fled together, they are bound by the archers—Jerusalem's leadership has collapsed in cowardice. The Hebrew **רִשְׁתָּה** (qatsin, rulers/ commanders) fled instead of defending the city. **Bound by the archers** (**מִקְשֵׁת עָשָׂר**, miqqeshet usaru) likely means captured without archery (fled before fighting), emphasizing their disgraceful surrender without resistance.

All that are found in thee are bound together—mass captivity follows failed leadership. The repetition of "all" (**כָל**, kol) stresses totality: every leader, every person found. **Which have fled from far** suggests even those who tried escaping to distant places were caught and bound. This oracle condemns Jerusalem's leaders who trusted military preparedness (vv.8-11) but fled when crisis came, proving that fortifications without faith are futile.

Historical Context

Isaiah 22 is the "Valley of Vision" oracle, likely referring to Jerusalem's Hinnom or Kidron valley. The historical setting is debated—possibly Sennacherib's 701 BC siege (when Hezekiah's officials negotiated), or prophetically the Babylonian siege of 586 BC (when Zedekiah and officials fled, 2 Kings 25:4-5). The chapter condemns Jerusalem's leaders for trusting engineering projects (water systems, fortifications) instead of repentance when threatened.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the failure of Jerusalem's leaders warn against trusting human preparedness over dependence on God?
2. What modern forms of 'fleeing' characterize leadership that appears strong but lacks spiritual foundation?
3. How does the image of being 'bound together' illustrate the collective consequences of faithless leadership?

Interlinear Text

כָּל אָסְרֵי יְהוָה שָׁת מִקְרָב יְהוָה יְחִידָה תְּבִיא בְּנֵי שָׁת מִקְרָב יְהוָה אָסְרֵי כָּל
H3605 All thy rulers are fled together by the archers in thee are bound H3605
H7101 H5074 H3162 H7198 H631
כָּל אָסְרֵי יְהוָה שָׁת מִקְרָב יְהוָה יְחִידָה תְּבִיא בְּנֵי שָׁת מִקְרָב יְהוָה אָסְרֵי כָּל
H3605 all that are found in thee are bound together from far which have fled H3605
H4672 H631 H3162 H7350 H1272

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