

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 קָצִין (qatsin, rulers/commanders) fled instead of defending the city. **Bound by the archers** (תִּקְשֶׁת אֶרְסוּ, 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" (כֹּל, 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	קִצִּיִּיךָ יְיָ	נָדְדוּ	יַחְדָּו	מִקֵּץ שָׁת	אֲסֹר ו	כָּל
H3605	All thy rulers	are fled	together	by the archers	in thee are bound	H3605
	H7101	H5074	H3162	H7198	H631	
נִמְצְאָ יְיָ	אֲסֹר ו	יַחְדָּו	מִכָּח וּלְ	בָּכָחוֹ:		
all that are found	in thee are bound	together	from far	which have fled		
H4672	H631	H3162	H7350	H1272		

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