

Isaiah 22:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For it is a day of trouble, and of treading down, and of perplexity by the Lord GOD of hosts in the valley of vision, breaking down the walls, and of crying to the mountains.

Analysis

For it is a day of trouble, and of treading down, and of perplexity—three Hebrew terms paint escalating crisis. Mehumah (trouble/confusion), mebushah (treading down/trampling), mebukah (perplexity/bewilderment). The alliteration in Hebrew emphasizes the completeness of disaster.

By the Lord GOD of hosts (לְאֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהִים צְבָאֹת, la-Adonai YHWH Tseva'ot)—this isn't random catastrophe but divine judgment from the sovereign LORD of armies. The full title stresses God's authority and power to execute judgment.

In the valley of vision (בְּגַיְעָה חִזְזָיָן, begei chizzayon)—ironic title for Jerusalem, the place where prophetic visions were given. Now it's a valley of judgment, not revelation. **Breaking down the walls, and of crying to the mountains**—walls fail, people flee crying for help. This vivid scene depicts Jerusalem's defenses collapsing despite human efforts to fortify them (vv.9-11).

Historical Context

The 'valley of vision' likely refers to valleys surrounding Jerusalem (Hinnom, Kidron, Tyropoeon). Jerusalem sits on hills, but battles often occurred in nearby valleys. The irony: the city that received divine visions becomes the scene of divine judgment. This prophecy saw fulfillment in both the Assyrian siege (701 BC) and

more fully in Babylon's destruction of Jerusalem (586 BC), when walls were broken and survivors fled to the mountains.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the threefold description (trouble, treading down, perplexity) capture the comprehensive nature of judgment when it comes?
2. What does it mean that this day comes 'by the Lord GOD of hosts'—how should divine agency in judgment affect our response to crisis?
3. What is the significance of the 'valley of vision' becoming a place of judgment rather than revelation?

Interlinear Text

לֹאָדָן יְהוָה יְמִינָה מִתְּהוּמָה וּמִמְּבֹשָׁלָה וּמִמְּבֹאָה הַלְּדוֹןָה
H3588 For it is a day H3117 of trouble H4103 and of treading down H4001 and of perplexity H3998 by the Lord H136

בְּגִיאָה וְתַּחַת יְהוָה הַלְּדוֹןָה מִקְרָאָה רְחִיבָה וְלִזְרָעָה
H3069 GOD H6635 of hosts H1516 in the valley H2384 of vision H6979 breaking H7023 down the walls

וְלֹא שָׁוֹעֵד בְּקָרְבָּן
and of crying H413 to the mountains H2022

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 10:6 (Parallel theme): I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

Isaiah 37:3 (Parallel theme): And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and of blasphemy: for the children are come to the birth, and there is not strength to bring forth.

Luke 23:30 (Parallel theme): Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us.

Lamentations 1:5 (References Lord): Her adversaries are the chief, her enemies prosper; for the LORD hath afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions: her children are gone into captivity before the enemy.

Micah 7:4 (Parallel theme): The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

Isaiah 22:1 (Parallel theme): The burden of the valley of vision. What aileth thee now, that thou art wholly gone up to the housetops?

Jeremiah 30:7 (Parallel theme): Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

Hosea 10:8 (Parallel theme): The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us.

Lamentations 2:2 (Kingdom): The Lord hath swallowed up all the habitations of Jacob, and hath not pitied: he hath thrown down in his wrath the strong holds of the daughter of Judah; he hath brought them down to the ground: he hath polluted the kingdom and the princes thereof.
