

Isaiah 22:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he discovered the covering of Judah, and thou didst look in that day to the armour of the house of the forest.

Analysis

And he discovered the covering of Judah (וַיַּגֵּל אֶת מִסְחַת יְהוּדָה, vayegal et masakh Yehudah)—"discovered" (גָּלַה, galah) means uncovered, revealed, exposed. The "covering" (מִסְחָה, masakh) could refer to protective defense or the veil of false security. God removes Judah's defenses, exposing their vulnerability.

And thou didst look in that day to the armour of the house of the forest—when danger came, Judah looked to **the house of the forest** (בֵּית-יָעָר, beit-ya'ar), Solomon's armory built with Lebanon cedar (1 Kings 7:2, 10:17), which stored weapons and shields. The verb "didst look" (נָבַט, nabat) means to regard, consider, trust in.

The indictment: when God removed protection, they looked to weapons stockpiles instead of looking to God. This begins a series of human efforts (vv.9-11): inspecting breaches, gathering water, numbering houses, breaking down buildings to fortify walls—all pragmatic military preparations, but missing the essential element: seeking God. Good strategy without repentance is futile.

Historical Context

The 'house of the forest of Lebanon' was Solomon's impressive armory (1 Kings 7:2-5), named for its cedar pillars. It stored 500 shields and various weapons. When threatened by Sennacherib's invasion (701 BC), Hezekiah did exactly this—prepared defenses, fortified walls, secured water supply (2 Chronicles 32:2-5).

These were wise military measures, but Isaiah condemns trusting these instead of repenting and seeking God (vv.12-14). Later, Babylon emptied this very armory (2 Kings 25:13-17).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that God 'discovered the covering of Judah'—removing their sense of security to expose their true vulnerability?
2. How do we similarly 'look to the armour' of human resources, strategies, or preparations instead of first looking to God in crisis?
3. Why are good strategic preparations insufficient when spiritual repentance and dependence on God are absent?

Interlinear Text

בְּ י֥ וּמְלֵאָה And he discovered	H1540	וְיִתְבְּשָׁה the covering	H853	וְיִהְזַקְתָּה of Judah	H4539	וְיִתְבְּשָׁה and thou didst look	H3063	וְיִתְבְּשָׁה in that day	H5027	H3117
וְיִתְבְּשָׁה to the armour	H1931	וְיִתְבְּשָׁה of the house	H413	וְיִתְבְּשָׁה of the forest	H5402	וְיִתְבְּשָׁה H1004	וְיִתְבְּשָׁה H3293			

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 7:2 (Parallel theme): He built also the house of the forest of Lebanon; the length thereof was an hundred cubits, and the breadth thereof fifty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits, upon four rows of cedar pillars, with cedar beams upon the pillars.

1 Kings 10:17 (Parallel theme): And he made three hundred shields of beaten gold; three pound of gold went to one shield: and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.

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