

Isaiah 24:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people, there shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is done.

Analysis

When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people—the phrase ki koh yihyeh (כִּי כֹה יִהְיֶה, "for thus it shall be") introduces a simile explaining judgment's scope. Be-qerev ha'aretz (בְּקָרְבָּן אָרְצָה, "in the midst of the earth") and be-tok ha'ammim (בְּתוֹךְ הָעָמִים, "among the peoples") indicate universal extent—the coming devastation affects all nations and lands.

There shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is done—two agricultural images depict the remnant principle. Noqeph zayit (נִקְפָּה זַיִת, "beating/shaking of olive") describes harvesting olives by striking branches—most fruit falls, but a few remain. Olelot (עֲלִילָת, "gleanings") after kala batsir (כָּלָה בָּצֵיר, "vintage is finished") refers to scattered grapes missed by harvesters. Deuteronomy 24:20 required leaving olive gleanings for the poor—here judgment leaves only gleanings of humanity. Isaiah repeatedly uses remnant theology (1:9, 6:13, 10:20-22, 37:31-32), culminating in the preserved remnant that becomes the church (Rom 9:27-29, 11:5).

Historical Context

Olive and grape harvesting were major economic activities in ancient Israel. Olive beating involved striking branches with poles to dislodge fruit; grape harvesting involved cutting clusters, with gleaners following to collect missed grapes. Both processes left small amounts of fruit—intentionally (for the poor) and accidentally

(inaccessible locations). This agricultural imagery would have been immediately comprehensible to Isaiah's audience. The remnant concept appears throughout Isaiah and the prophets—judgment purges the wicked majority but preserves a faithful minority for redemptive purposes.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the imagery of olive beating and grape gleaning help you understand both the severity of judgment and the mercy of preservation?
2. What does Paul's use of Isaiah's remnant theology in Romans 9:27-29 and 11:5 teach about God's faithful preservation of His people?
3. Are you part of the 'gleanings'—the remnant preserved by grace? What evidences of genuine faith mark your life?

Interlinear Text

בְּכָל הַמִּזְרָחָה	וְבְכָל הַמִּזְרָחָה	וְבְכָל הַמִּזְרָחָה	בְּכָל הַמִּזְרָחָה	בְּכָל הַמִּזְרָחָה
H3588	H3541	H1961	When thus it shall be in the midst	of the land
			H7130	H776
בְּעַמְּךָ	בְּעַמְּךָ	בְּעַמְּךָ	בְּעַמְּךָ	בְּעַמְּךָ
the people	there shall be as the shaking	of an olive tree	and as the gleaning grapes	
H5971	H5363	H2132	H5955	
כָּל הַמִּזְרָחָה	כָּל הַמִּזְרָחָה	כָּל הַמִּזְרָחָה	כָּל הַמִּזְרָחָה	כָּל הַמִּזְרָחָה
H518	is done	when the vintage		
H3615		H1210		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:9 (Parallel theme): Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

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