

Isaiah 24:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word.

Analysis

The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled—the Hebrew uses the infinitive absolute construction (hibbaq tibbaq, הִבּוֹק תִּבּוֹק and hibbaz tibbaz, הִבֵּז תִּבֵּז) for emphatic certainty: "it shall surely, surely be emptied and plundered." This grammatical intensification removes all doubt—judgment is decreed and irreversible. The doubling emphasizes both the totality and inevitability of devastation.

For the LORD hath spoken this word (ki YHWH dibber et-haddabar hazzeh, כִּי יְהוָה דִּבֶּר אֶת־הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה) grounds judgment's certainty in divine decree. Once YHWH speaks (dibber, דִּבֶּר), the word carries creative and destructive power (Gen 1:3; Ps 33:6, 9). Isaiah frequently invokes this formula (1:20, 22:25, 25:8, 40:5) to authenticate oracles—God's word cannot return void (55:11). Jesus reaffirmed this principle: heaven and earth may pass away, but His words endure (Matt 24:35).

Historical Context

The prophetic formula 'the LORD hath spoken' (ki YHWH dibber) authenticated true prophecy versus false prophets who spoke from their own imagination (Jer 23:16-22, Ezek 13:1-7). In Isaiah's context, false prophets offered assurances of peace while Isaiah announced judgment (Isa 28:14-22). This verse vindicates Isaiah's authority—his word carries divine sanction. History confirmed this: Assyria devastated the northern kingdom (722 BC) and ravaged Judah (701 BC), ultimately leading to Babylonian exile (586 BC).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does the emphatic Hebrew construction teach you about God's commitment to fulfilling His warnings?
2. How should the phrase 'the LORD hath spoken' shape your response to Scripture's difficult or unwelcome teachings?
3. In what ways do modern false prophets offer false assurances contrary to God's revealed Word?

Interlinear Text

תָּבַד וְקָ	תָּבַד וְקָ	הָאָרֶץ	תָּבַד וְזָ	תָּבַד וְזָ	כִּי	יְהוָה
emptied	emptied	The land	and utterly	and utterly	H3588	for the LORD
H1238	H1238	H776	H962	H962		H3068
הָיָה	הַדָּבָר	אֶת	הַדָּבָר	אֶת		
hath spoken	this word		hath spoken	this word		
H1696	H1697	H853	H1696	H1697		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 24:1 (References Lord): Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.

Isaiah 6:11 (References Lord): Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,

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