

Isaiah 28:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under feet:

Analysis

The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under feet:

This verse repeats the indictment from verse 1 but states the consequence directly: **shall be trodden under feet** (beraglaim teramesnah, בְּרַגְלֵיכֶם תִּתְמַסֵּנָה, literally "with feet it shall be trampled"). The image is devastating—what was exalted high (the crown on the hill) will be crushed low underfoot. This reverses their self-exaltation through divinely-ordained humiliation. Invading armies will literally march over Samaria's ruins.

The repetition of **crown of pride** emphasizes that their arrogance itself is being judged. Proverbs 16:18 warns, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5 declare God "resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." The New Testament church faced similar warning against pride (1 Corinthians 10:12, Romans 11:20). What we exalt apart from God, God brings low.

Historical Context

Assyrian conquest was brutal. Reliefs from Sennacherib's palace depict Assyrian soldiers marching over conquered enemies, literally trampling them underfoot. Samaria's population was deported, the city destroyed and resettled with foreigners (2 Kings 17:24). The prideful crown literally lay in the dust, trampled by Assyrian boots. Archaeological excavations reveal destruction layers from this

period. History repeatedly demonstrates that human pride cannot withstand divine judgment—empires that exalted themselves (Babylon, Rome, etc.) eventually fell.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does pride set believers up for a fall, and what does genuine humility look like in practical terms?
2. What 'crowns' (sources of self-exaltation, pride-producing accomplishments) might God need to bring low in your life?
3. How should the certainty of judgment against pride motivate believers toward humility and dependence on God?

Interlinear Text

אֶפְרַיִם: שָׁפֹךְ יְהוָה עַל רְתַבֵּם סְנָה בְּרַגֵּל יְמֵינוּ
of Ephraim: shall be trodden of pride the drunkards under feet

H7272

H7429

H5850

H1348

H7910

H669

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 26:6 (Parallel theme): The foot shall tread it down, even the feet of the poor, and the steps of the needy.