

Isaiah 3:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.

Analysis

The inverted social order where 'children are their oppressors, and women rule over them' describes covenant curse (Deuteronomy 28:30-33) manifesting in societal chaos. While not inherently denigrating women or youth, this indicates abandonment of God-ordained structures (cf. Isaiah 3:4). The phrase 'they which lead thee cause thee to err' indicts corrupt leadership that misdirects God's people. Jesus later warned against blind guides leading the blind (Matthew 15:14), emphasizing that unfaithful shepherds destroy the flock.

Historical Context

Judah experienced weak kings (Ahaz, Manasseh) and competing power factions. The reversal of normal order indicated divine judgment, not demographic commentary.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do we discern when societal disorder reflects divine judgment versus mere cultural change?
2. What does faithful leadership look like when surrounding authorities 'cause to err'?

Interlinear Text

עֲמִי	נִצְחָה	לְמַעֲוֵל	וְנִשְׁׁיָּם	בָּוֹתָם
As for my people	are their oppressors		and women	rule
H5971	H5065	H5768	H802	H4910
עֲמִי	מִאֲשֶׁר	יְבָ	מִתְּعַטֵּם	אַרְחַת
As for my people	they which lead	thee cause thee to err	the way	of thy paths
H5971	H833	H8582	H1870	H734
בְּלֹעֵוּ				
and destroy				
H1104				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 3:4 (Parallel theme): And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them.

Nahum 3:13 (Parallel theme): Behold, thy people in the midst of thee are women: the gates of thy land shall be set wide open unto thine enemies: the fire shall devour thy bars.

2 Kings 11:1 (Parallel theme): And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal.

Matthew 15:14 (Parallel theme): Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

