

Isaiah 3:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts.

Analysis

God's promise to 'smite with a scab the crown of the head' and 'discover their secret parts' describes humiliating judgment—likely referring to conquest and slavery. Beauty becomes disfigurement, modesty becomes shame. The vivid imagery shows that what was used for seduction and pride becomes the means of disgrace. This anticipates the principle that sin's consequences often mirror its expression (Galatians 6:7), and that God opposes the proud (James 4:6).

Historical Context

Conquest typically involved humiliation of captives, including public shaming. The threatened disgrace would reverse the very pride Isaiah condemns, fulfilling covenant curses (Deuteronomy 28:25-26).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's judgment often employ reversal—using pride's instruments for humiliation?
2. What does this teach about the serious consequences of vanity and spiritual pride?

Interlinear Text

וְשַׁפֵּה ח	אֲדֹנָי י	קִדְקֹד ד	בְּנוֹת
will smite with a scab	Therefore the Lord	the crown of the head	of the daughters
H5596	H136	H6936	H1323
צִיּוֹן	וַיְהִי ה	פִּתְּהָ	יַעֲרָה:
of Zion	and the LORD	their secret parts	will discover
H6726	H3068	H6596	H6168

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 13:22 (Parallel theme): And if thou say in thine heart, Wherefore come these things upon me? For the greatness of thine iniquity are thy skirts discovered, and thy heels made bare.

Isaiah 20:4 (Parallel theme): So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.

Micah 1:11 (Parallel theme): Pass ye away, thou inhabitant of Saphir, having thy shame naked: the inhabitant of Zaanan came not forth in the mourning of Beth-ezel; he shall receive of you his standing.