

Isaiah 3:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The rings, and nose jewels,

Analysis

Rings and nose jewels complete the enumeration of personal ornaments. The nose ring (Hebrew 'nezem ap') was common adornment in ancient Near East (Genesis 24:47). The exhaustive listing serves to heighten the contrast with coming deprivation (v. 24), where finery gives way to degradation. This pattern of reversal—abundance to want—characterizes covenant judgment and anticipates Jesus' teaching on the first becoming last (Matthew 19:30).

Historical Context

Rings were symbols of authority (Genesis 41:42) and beauty. Their removal signified loss of both status and attractiveness, key elements of coming humiliation.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do symbols of status and beauty become idols that must be surrendered?

2. What 'rings' of authority or accomplishment might God need to remove to restore proper devotion?

Interlinear Text

הַטָּבָע	וְ	וְנִזְמִי	וְ	אָזְנִי
The rings		jewels		and nose
H2885		H5141		H639

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 24:47 (Parallel theme): And I asked her, and said, Whose daughter art thou? And she said, The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bare unto him: and I put the earring upon her face, and the bracelets upon her hands.

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