

Isaiah 3:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them.

Analysis

The collapse continues with children ruling and babes governing—imagery of incompetent, immature leadership. This reversal of proper order constitutes judgment, not progress. The Hebrew 'ta'alulim' (capricious ones) suggests whimsical, unreliable rulers. When God gives immature leaders, it exposes and punishes a nation's folly, as He did with Rehoboam (1 Kings 12).

Historical Context

Judah's later kings included young, inexperienced rulers like Manasseh (12 years old) and Josiah (8 years old). While Josiah proved godly, the pattern of youth ruling illustrated national instability.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you discern between youthful energy and the wisdom that comes with mature, godly character?
2. What qualities should you look for in leaders beyond competence and charisma?

Interlinear Text

בָּם: וְמִשְׁלָאוֹ וּמִגְּלָאוֹ יְמִינָתִךְ
And I will give children to be their princes and babes shall rule H0
H5414 H5288 H8269 H8586 H4910

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 10:16 (Parallel theme): Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the morning!

2 Chronicles 36:9 (Parallel theme): Jehoiachin was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.

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