

Isaiah 3:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable.

Analysis

Social cohesion disintegrates into mutual oppression—people turning on each other. The generational and social reversals (child against elder, base against honorable) overturn God's ordained order. Honor structures that maintain social peace collapse when divine judgment removes restraining grace. This anticipates Jesus's description of end-times betrayal (Matthew 24:10).

Historical Context

Ancient societies relied on respect for elders and social hierarchy. Isaiah's vision of these structures collapsing would be recognized as civilizational breakdown, not merely political instability.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you show honor to those in authority, even when you disagree with them?
2. What happens to society when God-ordained structures of respect and authority are rejected?

Interlinear Text

וְנִגַּשׁ שׁ	וְהָעָם	וְאֵשׁ	וְאֵשׁ	וְאֵשׁ
shall be oppressed	And the people	and every one	and every one	and every one
H5065	H5971	H376	H376	H376
בְּרֵעֵהוּ	יִרְהַב וְ	הַנַּעַר	בְּזִקְן	
by his neighbour	shall behave himself proudly	the child	against the ancient	
H7453	H7292	H5288	H2205	
וְהַנִּקְלָה	בְּנֹכְדִי:			
and the base	against the honourable			
H7034	H3513			

Additional Cross-References

Malachi 3:5 (Parallel theme): And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.