

Isaiah 3:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When a man shall take hold of his brother of the house of his father, saying, Thou hast clothing, be thou our ruler, and let this ruin be under thy hand:

Analysis

Social collapse is evident when leadership defaults to anyone with minimal resources—'thou hast clothing, be thou our ruler.' The desperation reflects total breakdown of normal hierarchical structures; mere possession of garments qualifies for leadership. The phrase 'let this ruin be under thy hand' acknowledges societal devastation yet seeks any governance. This illustrates covenant curses' outworking (Deuteronomy 28:43-44) where social order disintegrates, anticipating Jesus' teaching that a house divided cannot stand (Matthew 12:25).

Historical Context

Following Babylonian conquest, Judah's decimated population lacked infrastructure or leadership. The imagery depicts post-exile chaos where survival, not qualification, determined authority.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What societal 'ruins' result from abandoning God's ordained structures of authority?
2. How do we maintain godly order when surrounding culture collapses into chaos?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	וְתָפְּשׁוּ	אֶת	אֶחָיו	בֵּית	אָבִיו
H3588	shall take hold	When a man	of his brother	of the house	of his father
	H8610	H376	H251	H1004	H1
	שֹׁמֵל הִוא	לְךָ הִוא	קָצֵץ יָדָיו	תִּהְיֶה	לְנוֹ
saying	Thou hast clothing		be thou our ruler		
	H8071	H1980	H7101	H1961	H0
	וְהִמְכִּשְׁלָהּ	תַּחַת	יָדְךָ:		
and let this ruin			be under thy hand		
	H4384	H2063	H8478	H3027	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 4:1 (Parallel theme): And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.

John 6:15 (Parallel theme): When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.