

Isaiah 30:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant.

Analysis

This iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall—The Hebrew perets (פֶּרֶץ/breach) describes structural failure, a bulging crack in a defensive wall. The participle **swelling out** (בָּצֵא/batze'a) depicts a wall bowing outward under pressure, moments from catastrophic collapse. Isaiah's architectural metaphor is devastating: the very sin they trusted for security becomes their ruin.

Whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant (מִתְּהִזֵּף/pit'om)—after prolonged structural stress, collapse is instantaneous. This imagery prophesies both historical judgment (Babylonian conquest, 586 BC) and eschatological suddenness (1 Thessalonians 5:3, "sudden destruction"). Sin's consequences often appear stable until catastrophic failure.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cities depended on massive mud-brick or stone walls for defense. A bulging wall was a terrifying sight—engineers would recognize imminent collapse. Isaiah uses this common fear to illustrate spiritual danger. Within a century, Jerusalem's actual walls would be breached by Babylon (2 Kings 25:4), vindicating his prophecy.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What 'bulging walls' of compromise in your life appear stable but are structurally compromised?
2. How does God's patience before judgment create false security rather than opportunity for repentance?
3. What 'instant' collapses have you witnessed when long-tolerated sin finally brought consequences?

Interlinear Text

לֹכֶם יְהִי הַלְּכָה | הַעֲוֹן | הַזְּהָבָה | כַּפְּנַתְּזָה |
לֹכֶם יְהִי הַלְּכָה | H3651 H1961 H0 Therefore this iniquity H5771 H2088 shall be to you as a breach H6556

נַפְלָה נְבָעַת הַבָּחוּמָה | אֲשֶׁר גַּשְׁבָּה הַבָּחוּמָה | פְּתַחַת מִלְּפָנֶיךָ |
ready to fall swelling out wall in a high H834 suddenly at an instant H6597 H6621

וְאַבְדָּה: שְׁבָרָה |
cometh whose breaking H935 H7667

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 29:5 (Parallel theme): Moreover the multitude of thy strangers shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the terrible ones shall be as chaff that passeth away: yea, it shall be at an instant suddenly.

Psalms 62:3 (Parallel theme): How long will ye imagine mischief against a man? ye shall be slain all of you: as a bowing wall shall ye be, and as a tottering fence.

Proverbs 29:1 (Parallel theme): He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

1 Kings 20:30 (Parallel theme): But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; and there a wall fell upon twenty and seven thousand of the men that were left. And Ben-hadad fled, and came into the city, into an inner chamber.

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