

Isaiah 30:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall break it as the breaking of the potters' vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water withal out of the pit.

Analysis

He shall break it as the breaking of the potters' vessel (שָׁבֵר נֶגֶל יוֹצְרִים/shever nevel yotzerim)—Pottery breaking imagery appears throughout Scripture (Psalm 2:9, Jeremiah 19:11, Revelation 2:27). The nevel was a large earthenware jar; when shattered, it became utterly useless. The phrase **broken in pieces** (קָתַת/katat) means pulverized, beaten to powder.

Not a sherd to take fire from the hearth—not even a pottery fragment (cheres) large enough for practical use survives. The judgment is so complete that nothing can be salvaged or repurposed. This total destruction contrasts sharply with God's promise to the remnant (v. 19-21)—judgment falls on the rebellious structure, but God preserves a people for himself.

Historical Context

Pottery was ubiquitous in ancient Israel—broken sherds were sometimes reused as writing surfaces (ostraca) or for carrying coals. Isaiah's image of destruction so complete that not one usable sherd remains would communicate utter devastation. Archaeological excavations of destroyed cities reveal massive pottery destruction layers from ancient conquests.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What areas of your life would survive God's judgment, and what would be utterly shattered?
2. How does God's willingness to completely destroy false refuges demonstrate his love?
3. What 'sherds' of old life are you trying to salvage that God wants pulverized?

Interlinear Text

בְּתַת יְתָה	וַיִּשְׁבַּרְבָּה	כַּשׁ בָּר	גַּבְלָה	וַיַּצְאֵר יִם	בְּלַי	וְשַׁבְּרָה	וְשַׁבְּרָה
And he shall break	it as the breaking	' vessel	of the potters	that is broken in pieces			
H7665	H7667	H5035	H3335				H3807
בְּמַכְתָּה	לֹא	יִחַם לְ	אֵלָא	אִמְצָא אֵ			
he shall not spare		H2550	H3808	so that there shall not be found		in the bursting	
H3808				H4672		H4386	
לְחַתָּה וְתַ	רְשָׁ	אֵשׁ	מִזְקָה תַּ	לְחַשְׁ	מִם		
of it a sherd	to take	fire	from the hearth	or to take	water		
H2789	H2846	H784	H3344	H2834	H4325		
מִבָּא:							
withal out of the pit							
H1360							

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 2:9 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Revelation 2:27 (Parallel theme): And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Romans 11:21 (Parallel theme): For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.

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