

Isaiah 30:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers and streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.

Analysis

There shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers and streams of waters (וְהָיָה עַל-כָּל-הָהָר גִּבְעָה וְעַל-כָּל-גִּבְעָה נַשְׁאָה פְּלָגִים וְיָבֵי-מַיִם)—Mountains and hills, normally dry, will have pelagim (streams, channels) and yivley-mayim (watercourses). This supernatural fertility reverses desert conditions. **In the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall**—The phrase yom herev rav (day of great slaughter) refers to judgment on God's enemies. Towers (migdalim) symbolize military and economic power. Their falling accompanies God's people's blessing—another instance where restoration involves judgment.

The juxtaposition startles: abundant streams flow during slaughter's day. Blessing and judgment occur simultaneously. While enemy towers collapse, covenant people experience Eden-like abundance. This dual reality characterizes eschatology: Christ's return brings salvation for believers, judgment for unbelievers (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10). The water imagery alludes to Ezekiel 47:1-12 and Zechariah 14:8—rivers flowing from Jerusalem, healing all they touch. Revelation 22:1-2 describes the river of life flowing from God's throne. These visions aren't merely figurative; they promise real transformation of physical creation under Messiah's rule. Deserts bloom (Isaiah 35:1-7), springs burst forth, and creation itself is renewed.

Historical Context

Israel's geography made water precious. Mountains and hills, especially in Judean wilderness, were arid. Cisterns collected scarce rain. The vision of streams on every mountain represents total environmental transformation. This may partially fulfill in millennial kingdom; ultimate fulfillment awaits New Earth where the river of life flows (Revelation 22). The 'great slaughter' likely refers to Armageddon (Revelation 16:16; 19:17-21) when God destroys armies gathered against Jerusalem.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the simultaneous blessing (streams) and judgment (slaughter) reveal God's justice in rewarding faithfulness and punishing rebellion?
2. What does water flowing on dry mountains symbolize about the gospel's power to bring life where death once reigned?
3. How should believers balance hope for restoration with awareness that it comes through judgment on wickedness?

Interlinear Text

וְהָהָא	עַל	כָּל	הָר	גִּבְהָה	כָּל	וְעַל
H1961	H5921	H3605	mountain H2022	And there shall be upon every high H1364	H5921	H3605
גִּבְעָה	וְעַל	כָּל	נֶשֶׁאָה	פְּלָגִים	וְיָרֵד	מֵי
hill H1389	and upon every high H5375	rivers H6388	and streams H2988	of waters H4325	in the day H3117	
הָרָג	בְּ	לִפְנֵי	מִגְדָּלִים:			
slaughter H2027	of the great H7227	fall H5307	when the towers H4026			

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