

Isaiah 32:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They shall lament for the teats, for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine.

Analysis

They shall lament for the teats (עַל־שָׁדַיִם סֹפְדִים, al-shadayim sofdim)—mourning over שָׁדַיִם (shadayim, breasts, teats), using the verb סָפַד (safad, lament, mourn, beat the breast). **For the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine** (עַל־שְׂדֵי־חֶמֶד וְעַל־גֶּפֶן פְּרִיָּה, al-sedey-chemed al-gefen poriyah)—for fields of חֶמֶד (chemed, delight, pleasantness) and פְּרִיָּה (poriyah, fruitful) גֶּפֶן (gefen, vine).

The breast-beating gesture (סֹפְדִים, sofdim) was ancient mourning practice (Nahum 2:7, Luke 23:48). The 'teats' may reference nursing mothers unable to feed children due to famine, or the metaphorical 'breasts' of the land—its productive capacity. The pleasant fields and fruitful vines—sources of sustenance and joy—will be destroyed. Hosea 2:12 threatened similar agricultural judgment: 'I will destroy her vines and her fig trees.' What God gave as blessing, rebellion forfeits. The land mourns when covenant people apostatize.

Historical Context

Judah's agricultural wealth came from grain fields, vineyards, olive groves. Wine and bread were staples. Destruction of these meant starvation and economic collapse. Invading armies systematically destroyed agriculture—cutting fruit trees, burning fields, poisoning wells. The Babylonian siege (588-586 BC) caused such severe famine that Lamentations 4:9-10 describes cannibalism. The pleasant fields became wastelands.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What 'pleasant fields and fruitful vines'—sources of provision and joy—are you taking for granted?
2. How should recognition that all blessings come from God affect stewardship and gratitude?
3. When has loss of provision caused you to mourn and reassess priorities?

Interlinear Text

עַל	לְשֹׁן	וְיִלְלֻן	עַל	לְשֹׁן	וְיִלְלֻן	עַל	לְשֹׁן
H5921	for the teats	They shall lament	H5921	fields	for the pleasant	H5921	vine
	H7699	H5594		H7704	H2531		H1612

פְּרֹהַ:
for the fruitful
H6509