

# 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 סְפָדִים, al-shadayim sofdim)—mourning over the breasts (shadayim, breasts, teats), using the verb סְפַד (safad, lament, mourn, beat the breast). **For the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine** (עַל־שְׁדֵי-חֶםֶד עַל־גְּפָן, al-sedey-chemed al-gefen poriyah)—for fields of חֶםֶד (chemed, delight, pleasantness) and גְּפָן (gefen, vine).

The breast-beating gesture (סְפָדִים, 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.

