

# Isaiah 32:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because the palaces shall be forsaken; the multitude of the city shall be left; the forts and towers shall be for dens for ever, a joy of wild asses, a pasture of flocks;

## Analysis

**Because the palaces shall be forsaken** (פִּי־אַרְמוֹן נָטַשׁ, ki-armon nutash)—the אַרְמוֹן (armon, palace, citadel) will be נָטַשׁ (natash, forsaken, abandoned). **The multitude of the city shall be left** (הָמוֹן עִיר עָזַב, hamon ir uzav)—the הָמוֹן (hamon, multitude, throng) of the עִיר (ir, city) will be עָזַב (azav, left, abandoned). **The forts and towers shall be for dens for ever** (עֵפֶל וְבֶחֱן הָיָה בְּעֵד מְעָרוֹת עַד־עוֹלָם, ofel vabachan hayah ve'ad me'arot ad-olam)—fortifications become מְעָרוֹת (me'arot, caves, dens) עַד־עוֹלָם (ad-olam, forever). **A joy of wild asses, a pasture of flocks** (מְשׁוֹשׁ פָּרָאִים מְרֻעָה עֲדָרִים, mesos pera'im mir'eh adarim).

Urban centers become wilderness—palaces abandoned, populations exiled, fortifications repurposed as animal dens. The phrase עַד־עוֹלָם (ad-olam, forever) uses prophetic hyperbole: seemingly permanent desolation. Wild asses (פָּרָאִים, pera'im) roaming palace ruins depicts complete reversal from human civilization to animal wilderness. Zephaniah 2:13-15 prophesies similarly about Nineveh: 'flocks shall lie down... the cormorant and the bittern shall lodge... desolation shall be in the thresholds.' Jeremiah 9:11 warns Jerusalem will become 'a den of dragons.'

## Historical Context

After 586 BC, Jerusalem's palaces, Temple, walls were destroyed or burned. Population was killed or exiled. Archaeological evidence shows abandonment layers—destruction debris, squatter occupation, minimal rebuilding. Though

Jerusalem was eventually restored (Ezra-Nehemiah), the prophecy conveys the totality of judgment. Jesus later prophesied similar destruction (AD 70): 'There shall not be left here one stone upon another' (Matthew 24:2).

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does seeing great cities or institutions fall into ruin demonstrate the fragility of human achievement apart from God?
2. What 'palaces' (achievements, securities, structures) in your life might be less permanent than they appear?
3. How should awareness that all earthly things can become 'dens for wild asses' affect priorities and investments?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי	אֲרָמֵי וֶן	נָטַשׁ	הַמִּוֶּן	עַיִר	עָזַב		
H3588	Because the palaces	shall be forsaken	the multitude	of the city	shall be left		
	H759	H5203	H1995	H5892	H5800		
עַל פְּל	וּבְמִן	בְּעֵד הָהָה	מְעֵרוֹת	עַד	עוֹלָם	מִשׁוֹשׁ	
the forts	and towers		shall be for dens	for	ever	a joy	
H6076	H975	H1961	H1157	H4631	H5704	H5769	H4885
פְּרָאֵי יָם	מִרְעֵה הָ	עֲדָרִים:					
of wild asses	a pasture	of flocks					
H6501	H4829	H5739					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 25:2** (Parallel theme): For thou hast made of a city an heap; of a defenced city a ruin: a palace of strangers to be no city; it shall never be built.

**Isaiah 24:12** (Parallel theme): In the city is left desolation, and the gate is smitten with destruction.

**Isaiah 24:10** (Parallel theme): The city of confusion is broken down: every house is shut up, that no man may come in.

**Isaiah 27:10** (Parallel theme): Yet the defenced city shall be desolate, and the habitation forsaken, and left like a wilderness: there shall the calf feed, and there shall he lie down, and consume the branches thereof.

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