

# Isaiah 33:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The earth mourneth and languisheth: Lebanon is ashamed and hewn down: Sharon is like a wilderness; and Bashan and Carmel shake off their fruits.

## Analysis

**The earth mourneth and languisheth** (אָבֶל אַמְלָלָה אֶרֶץ), aval umlelah arets)—the earth (erets, earth, land) mourns (aval, aval) and languishes (amlal, withers, fades). **Lebanon is ashamed and hewn down** (הַחֲפִיר לְבָנָן קָמָל), hechpir Levanon qamal)—(Levanon, Lebanon) is ashamed (chafer, dried up, ashamed) and withered (qamal). **Sharon is like a wilderness; and Bashan and Carmel shake off their fruits** (הַיָּה קָעָרָבָה הַשָּׁרוֹן וְנָעַר בָּשָׁן וְכַרְמֵל), hayah kha'aravah haSharon veno'er Bashan veKharmel).

The devastation extends to nature itself—famous fertile regions become wasteland. Lebanon's cedars (symbol of strength and beauty), Sharon's rose gardens (Song of Solomon 2:1), Bashan's oak forests, and Carmel's vineyards all wither. This isn't merely metaphorical—invading armies destroyed agriculture, cut forests for siege works, burned fields. Romans 8:22 says creation 'groaneth and travaileth in pain together'—nature suffers from human sin and war. Hosea 4:3: 'Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish.'

## Historical Context

Ancient armies devastated countryside systematically—destroying crops, cutting orchards, burning fields to starve besieged cities. Deuteronomy 20:19-20 forbade cutting fruit trees during siege, but pagan armies showed no such restraint. Assyrian reliefs depict soldiers cutting down trees and destroying agriculture.

Lebanon's cedars, Sharon's flowers, Bashan's oaks, Carmel's fruit—all regional glories—suffered. Archaeological and historical evidence confirms widespread 8th-century BC agricultural devastation in these regions.

## Related Passages

## **Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment**

## **Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds**

## Study Questions

1. How does environmental devastation reflect and amplify human conflict and sin?
2. What does it mean that even nature 'mourns' when humans reject God and oppress others?
3. How should awareness of creation's groaning affect stewardship and peacemaking?

## Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי הָרָן	בְּשָׂרוֹן	בְּקָרְבָּה	בְּנֵי רָאשָׁה	בְּנֵי בָּשָׂר	בְּנֵי כַּרְמֵל:
H1961	Sharon	is like a wilderness	shake off	and Bashan	and Carmel
H8289		H6160	H5287	H1316	H3760

## Additional Cross-References

**Isaiah 35:2** (Parallel theme): It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.

**Isaiah 65:10** (Parallel theme): And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me.

**Nahum 1:4** (Parallel theme): He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth.

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