

Isaiah 40:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown:
yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall
also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind
shall take them away as stubble.

Analysis

The agricultural metaphors (planting, sowing, taking root) describe the apparent establishment of powerful rulers, only to be suddenly destroyed by God's breath ('ruach'). The whirlwind ('supah') imagery suggests sudden, complete removal. This illustrates the transience of all earthly power before divine sovereignty.

Historical Context

This prophetically describes the rapid fall of kingdoms throughout history, including Babylon's sudden conquest by Persia in 539 BC after seeming firmly established.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the suddenness of God's judgment on established powers warn against trusting in earthly security?
2. What things in your life seem firmly rooted but may be vulnerable to God's breath of change?

Interlinear Text

בַּל אֶף	נֹטָ עוֹ	בַּל אֶף	זֶרַע עוֹ
H637 H1077	H5193	H637 H1077	H2232
Yea they shall not be planted		yea they shall not be sown	
בַּל אֶף	שֶׁר שׁ	בְּאֶרֶץ	גִּזְעָם
H637 H1077	H8327	H776	H1503
shall not take root		in the earth	
		yea their stock	
נֶשֶׁף אֶף	בְּהֵם	וַיִּשָּׁוּ	וּסְעֹר ה
H5398	H0	H3001	H5591
and he shall also blow		upon them and they shall wither	
		and the whirlwind	
כִּקֵּץ שׁ	יִתְּשָׁאֵם:		
H7179	H5375		
them away as stubble		shall take	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 41:16 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 17:13 (Parallel theme): The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.

Jeremiah 23:19 (Parallel theme): Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked.

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