

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 ('suphah') 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

בְּלֹא בָּאָרֶץ	נִטְעָה	בְּלֹא בָּאָרֶץ	זָרַע עָוָן
H637 H1077	Yea they shall not be planted H5193	H637 H1077	yea they shall not be sown H2232
בְּלֹא בָּאָרֶץ	שְׁרֵשׁ	בְּאָרֶץ	גִּזְעָם
H637 H1077	shall not take root H8327	in the earth H776	yea their stock H1503 H1571
נִשְׁאָר	בְּפָנָם	יִבְשְׁאָל	וַיִּשְׁאַל הָ
and he shall also blow H5398	H0	upon them and they shall wither H3001	and the whirlwind H5591
כַּלְעַד	תִּשְׁאַל:		
them away as stubble H7179	shall take H5375		

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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org