

Isaiah 41:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought.

Analysis

The search for enemies becomes futile—they won't be found because they'll cease to exist ('ayin' and 'ephes'—nothing, zero). The threefold emphasis (not find, as nothing, as nothing) stresses complete obliteration. God's enemies ultimately vanish into non-being; His people endure.

Historical Context

Where are the mighty Babylonians now? The empire that seemed eternal disappeared, while the covenant people God promised to preserve continue through history—a powerful apologetic for God's faithfulness.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the eventual fate of God's enemies inform your perspective on current opposition?

2. What does it mean that those who war against God become 'as nothing' while God's people endure?

Interlinear Text

תִּבְקֹשִׁם	וְלֹא	תִמְצָא	אִנְשֵׁי	מִצֵּתָהֶם	יְהִי וְ
Thou shalt seek	H3808	them and shalt not find	H376	that contended	H1961
H1245		H4672		H4695	
כֹּאֲוִן		וְכַאֲפֹס		אִנְשֵׁי	
H369		against thee shall be as nothing and as a thing of nought		H376	
		H657			
מִלְחֵמָתָהֶם:					
with thee they that war					
H4421					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 17:14 (Parallel theme): And behold at eveningtide trouble; and before the morning he is not. This is the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us.