

Isaiah 42:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will make waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbs; and I will make the rivers islands, and I will dry up the pools.

Analysis

God's judgment transforms landscape: making waste mountains and hills, drying up herbs, turning rivers to islands, and drying up pools. The Hebrew 'charav' (make waste) depicts devastation. This ecological judgment shows that creation itself responds to God's decrees—nature serves His purposes.

Historical Context

This describes God's judgment on oppressor nations, whose fruitful land becomes desolate. Conversely, Israel's wilderness becomes fruitful (41:18-19)—complete reversal demonstrating God's justice.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does creation's response to God's word demonstrate His sovereign authority?

2. What does the transformation of landscapes teach about God's power to change circumstances?

Interlinear Text

אֶחָד יִבֶּ	הַרִים	וְגִבֵּעַ וְהַר	וְכָל	עֵשְׂבָם	אֶחָד יִבֶּ
I will make waste	mountains	and hills	H3605	all their herbs	and I will dry up
H2717	H2022	H1389		H6212	H3001
וְשָׂמַתִּי	נְהָרוֹת	לְאִיִּם	וְאִגְמֵי	אֶחָד יִבֶּ	
and I will make	the rivers	islands	the pools	and I will dry up	
H7760	H5104	H339	H98	H3001	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 50:2 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.

Isaiah 44:27 (Parallel theme): That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers:

Revelation 20:11 (Parallel theme): And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.