

Isaiah 5:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, ten acres of vineyard shall yield one bath, and the seed of an homer shall yield an ephah.

Analysis

The curse of agricultural futility—ten acres yielding one bath (6 gallons), a homer of seed producing only an ephah (tenth of original)—depicts covenant curse where labor proves fruitless (Deuteronomy 28:38-40). The dramatic disproportion (90% loss) shows divine judgment nullifying human effort. This illustrates the principle that apart from God's blessing, toil is vain (Psalm 127:1), and anticipates Jesus' teaching on abiding in Him for fruitfulness (John 15:4-5).

Historical Context

Agricultural economy made crop failure catastrophic. Such severe losses would result in famine, fulfilling prophetic warnings and demonstrating dependence on divine provision.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What 'vineyards' of effort in our lives yield minimal return due to lack of divine blessing?

2. How does recognizing God's sovereignty over fruitfulness shape our approach to work?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	עֶשְׂרֵת	צִמְדֵי	כֶּרֶם	יַעֲשֶׂה	בַּת	אֶחָד	וְרֵעַ
Yea	ten	acres	of vineyard	shall yield	bath	one	and the seed
H3588	H6235	H6776	H3754	H6213	H1324	H259	H2233
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חֹמֶר	יַעֲשֶׂה	אֵיפָה:					
of an homer	shall yield	an ephah					
H2563	H6213	H374					

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 26:26 (Parallel theme): And when I have broken the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and ye shall eat, and not be satisfied.

Haggai 2:16 (Parallel theme): Since those days were, when one came to an heap of twenty measures, there were but ten: when one came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty vessels out of the press, there were but twenty.