

# Isaiah 5:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.

## Analysis

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Exile results from lack of knowledge (Hebrew 'da'at')—not mere ignorance but willful rejection of covenant instruction. The consequence—honorable men famished and multitude dried up with thirst—depicts exile's deprivation. Knowledge of God is prerequisite to covenant blessing; its absence invites curse (Hosea 4:6). This underscores that ignorance isn't innocence; refusing to know God brings judgment. The New Testament similarly warns that those who don't know God face eternal destruction (2 Thessalonians 1:8).

## Historical Context

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Despite temple presence and prophetic ministry, Judah remained willfully ignorant of covenant demands. This culpable ignorance, not innocent lack of exposure, brought exile.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does willful spiritual ignorance—refusing to know God deeply—lead to captivity?
2. What 'knowledge' are we resisting that could spare us judgment's consequences?

## Interlinear Text

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לֵךְ   H3651	גָּלָה ה H1540	עַמִּי י H5971	מִבְּלִי H1097
	are gone into captivity	Therefore my people	
	יֵד עֵת H1847	וְכְבוֹדוֹ H3519	מֵתֵי י H4962
	because they have no knowledge	and their honourable	men
			are famished
וְהַמֹּנִי וְ H1995	צִיָּה ה H6704	צָמָא: H6772	
and their multitude	dried up	with thirst	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hosea 4:6** (Parallel theme): My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

**Isaiah 1:3** (Parallel theme): The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

**Isaiah 27:11** (Parallel theme): When the boughs thereof are withered, they shall be broken off: the women come, and set them on fire: for it is a people of no understanding: therefore he that made them will not have mercy on them, and he that formed them will shew them no favour.

**Isaiah 1:7** (Parallel theme): Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

**Romans 1:28** (Parallel theme): And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

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