

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

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

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

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

לְכָא כִּי עָתָּה מִכְּלֵי

H3651 are gone into captivity Therefore my people H1097

H1540

H5971

בְּעֵת וְכִבְדָּן מְתִתְבָּעָה

because they have no knowledge and their honourable men are famished

H1847

H3519

H4962

H7458

וְמִרְמָנוֹן אֶצְבָּע צְמַח

and their multitude dried up with thirst

H1995

H6704

H6772

Additional Cross-References

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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