

Isaiah 5:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the mean man shall be brought down, and the mighty man shall be humbled, and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled:

Analysis

Echoing 2:9, 11, 17, the promise that 'the mean man shall be brought down' and 'the mighty man shall be humbled' reiterates judgment's leveling effect. The phrase 'the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled' emphasizes pride's universal subjection to divine authority. This pattern—human exaltation brought low, divine glory exalted—pervades Scripture, anticipating Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:52) and James' teaching that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6).

Historical Context

Social hierarchy that exalted some while oppressing others would be dismantled through exile. Judgment functioned as great equalizer, demonstrating that covenant standing, not social status, ultimately matters.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty of all human pride being humbled inform present pursuit of humility?
2. What 'lofty eyes' in our culture will inevitably face divine humbling?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁאַל	אֵת	מִ	תִּשְׁפְּלִנָּה:	אֵשׁ
shall be brought down	And the mean man		shall be humbled	and the mighty man
H7817	H120		H8213	H376
וְעַיִן	גָּבָהּ	מִ	תִּשְׁפְּלִנָּה:	
and the eyes	of the lofty		shall be humbled	
H5869	H1364		H8213	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 2:9 (Parallel theme): And the mean man boweth down, and the great man humbleth himself: therefore forgive them not.

Isaiah 2:11 (Parallel theme): The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.