

Isaiah 5:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

Analysis

The vineyard owner's drastic action—ceasing pruning, hoeing, allowing briars and thorns, and withholding rain—depicts divine abandonment to covenant curses (cf. Leviticus 26:19-20). The vineyard (Israel, v. 7) that produced wild grapes receives judicial neglect, becoming waste. This anticipates Jesus' parable of the unfruitful fig tree (Luke 13:6-9) and the warning that unfaithful branches are removed (John 15:2, 6). God's withdrawal of care is itself judgment, delivering rebels to consequences of rebellion.

Historical Context

Agricultural imagery resonated in Judah's agrarian context. Vineyard abandonment meant economic ruin, symbolizing God's removal of covenant protection and blessing.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does divine 'neglect'—removing sustaining grace—function as judgment?
2. What 'briars and thorns' overgrow our lives when God withdraws His cultivating presence?

Interlinear Text

וְיִשְׁלַחְךָ רַבָּה בְּתַת הַאֲשֵׁית הַזֶּה	לֹא אָבַד כִּי יִצְמַרְךָ	וְיִתְהַרְבֵּךָ רַבָּה בְּתַת הַאֲשֵׁית הַזֶּה
And I will lay it waste	it shall not be pruned	nor digged
H7896	H3808	H3808
H1326	H2168	H5737
וְעַל הַעֲבָדִים וְעַל לִשְׁתִּית שְׁמֵירָה	וְעַל הַעֲבָדִים וְעַל לִשְׁתִּית שְׁמֵירָה	וְעַל הַעֲבָדִים וְעַל לִשְׁתִּית שְׁמֵירָה
but there shall come up briers	and thorns	the clouds
H5927	H8068	H5645
	H7898	
וְאַצְרֵה מִטְרָה: שְׁלֵג מִמְּמֹתִיר	וְאַצְרֵה מִטְרָה: שְׁלֵג מִמְּמֹתִיר	וְאַצְרֵה מִטְרָה: שְׁלֵג מִמְּמֹתִיר
I will also command that they rain	no rain	
H6680	H4305	H4306
	H5921	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 25:11 (Parallel theme): And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.
