

Isaiah 5:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In mine ears said the LORD of hosts, Of a truth many houses shall be desolate, even great and fair, without inhabitant.

Analysis

The oath formula 'In mine ears said the LORD of hosts' emphasizes divine determination to judge. The prophecy that 'many houses shall be desolate' and 'great and fair, without inhabitant' describes judgment through depopulation—likely exile. Beautiful dwellings emptied of occupants illustrate vanity of material accumulation without covenant faithfulness. This anticipates Jesus' teaching about the rich fool whose barns couldn't secure his soul (Luke 12:16-21).

Historical Context

Babylonian exile fulfilled this prophecy literally as Jerusalem's houses stood empty. Archaeological evidence shows 6th century BC destruction layers confirming widespread abandonment.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty of earthly dwellings becoming desolate inform our investment priorities?

2. What 'great and fair' possessions might we accumulate that ultimately stand empty?

Interlinear Text

בְּאָזְנוֹ י	יְהוָה ה	אֵם צָבָא וְת	אֵם	ל א	בֵּת ים	רַבִּים
In mine ears	said the LORD	of hosts	H518	Of a truth	houses	many
H241	H3068	H6635		H3808	H1004	H7227
לְשֹׁמֵה	יְהוָה ו	גָּדֹל ים	יְטוֹב ים	יֵמָּה ין	יֹשֵׁב:	
shall be desolate	H1961	even great	and fair	H369	without inhabitant	
H8047		H1419	H2896		H3427	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 23:38 (Parallel theme): Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

Isaiah 22:14 (References Lord): And it was revealed in mine ears by the LORD of hosts, Surely this iniquity shall not be purged from you till ye die, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

Amos 3:7 (References Lord): Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

Amos 5:11 (Parallel theme): Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat: ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them.