

Isaiah 6:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,

Analysis

Isaiah asks the duration question: 'Lord, how long?' God's answer is devastating: until complete desolation—cities without inhabitants, houses without people, land utterly desolate. This prophesies the Babylonian exile but also looks forward to eschatological judgment. The thoroughness ('utterly desolate') emphasizes comprehensive judgment, not partial chastisement. Only after utter devastation will restoration come.

Historical Context

The Babylonian exile (586 BC, 150+ years future) fulfilled this literally—Jerusalem destroyed, population exiled, land desolate for 70 years. The scope of judgment matched the depth of rebellion.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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Leviticus 26:31 (Parallel theme): And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours.

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