

Isaiah 6:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land.

Analysis

The LORD's sending away of 'men far away' with resulting 'great forsaking in the midst of the land' describes exile's depopulation. This fulfills the prophetic commission (vv. 9-11) that Isaiah's ministry would harden many, resulting in judgment. The phrase 'great forsaking' (Hebrew 'azubah rabbah') depicts massive abandonment—both geographic exile and spiritual desolation. Yet this judgment isn't final; the remnant (v. 13) ensures covenant continuity.

Historical Context

Babylonian exile saw massive deportation, leaving Judah sparsely populated. This 'sending far away' fulfilled prophetic warning while preserving a remnant for eventual restoration.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's 'sending away' function as both judgment and protective discipline?
2. What comfort exists in knowing that even massive 'forsaking' doesn't nullify covenant promises?

Interlinear Text

וְרָחֵק	יְהוָה	אֶת	הָאֲנָשִׁים	וְכָבֵד	הַתַּזְזֹתָהּ
far away	And the LORD	H853	men	and there be a great	forsaking
H7368	H3068		H120	H7227	H5805
בְּקֶרֶב	הָאָרֶץ:				
in the midst	of the land				
H7130	H776				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 4:29 (Parallel theme): The whole city shall flee for the noise of the horsemen and bowmen; they shall go into thickets, and climb up upon the rocks: every city shall be forsaken, and not a man dwell therein.

Deuteronomy 28:64 (References Lord): And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.