

Isaiah 64:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy holy cities are a wilderness, Zion is a wilderness,
Jerusalem a desolation.

Analysis

'Thy holy cities are a wilderness, Zion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation.' The concrete reality of judgment: holy cities ('arei qodsheka' - plural, referring to all significant places) have become wilderness. Zion and Jerusalem specifically named are 'desolation' (shemamah - horror, devastation). Physical reality matches spiritual condition.

Historical Context

This describes the devastation following Babylon's destruction in 586 BC. The 'holy cities' reduced to wilderness made the need for restoration concrete and urgent.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What 'holy places' in your life have become wilderness?
2. How does physical desolation reflect spiritual condition?

Interlinear Text

עֲרֵי יְרוּשָׁלַם	קִדְשְׁךָ הֵי וְ	מִדְבָּר	צִיּוֹן	מִדְבָּר	הֵי תֵה
cities	Thy holy	are a wilderness	Zion	are a wilderness	
H5892	H6944	H4057	H6726	H4057	H1961
שְׁמָמָה: יְרוּשָׁלַם					
Jerusalem	a desolation				
H3389	H8077				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:7 (Parallel theme): Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

Luke 21:24 (References Jerusalem): And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.