

Isaiah 7:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, for the abundance of milk that they shall give he shall eat butter: for butter and honey shall every one eat that is left in the land.

Analysis

This verse describes the desolation following judgment, where the remnant survives on simple pastoral provisions. The 'abundance of milk' suggests a return to pastoral simplicity after destruction, not prosperity. Butter (curds) and honey represent basic sustenance in a depopulated land where agriculture has ceased. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates the principle that God's judgment purifies His people, reducing them to dependence on His basic provision. The remnant theme recurs throughout Isaiah—God always preserves a faithful few.

Historical Context

This prophecy concerns the Assyrian invasion of Judah (701 BC). The once-cultivated land would revert to pasture, with so few people remaining that dairy products would be plentiful. Archaeological evidence confirms the devastation Sennacherib's armies brought to Judah's countryside, with 46 fortified cities destroyed. The survivors would live on the most basic foods available in a pastoral economy.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's judgment sometimes strip away our comforts to teach us dependence on Him alone?
2. What does the preservation of a remnant teach us about God's faithfulness to His covenant promises?
3. In what ways might simplicity and reduction be blessings in disguise during seasons of trial?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה הַ	מֵרֶב	עָשׂוֹת	חֶלֶב				
H1961	And it shall come to pass for the abundance	that they shall give	of milk				
	H7230	H6213	H2461				
יֹאכֵל לֵ	חֶמֶץ הַ	כִּי	חֶמֶץ הַ	וְדִבֹּשׁ	יֹאכֵל לֵ	כָּל	הַנּוֹתָר
he shall eat	butter	H3588	butter	and honey	he shall eat	H3605	that is left
H398	H2529		H2529	H1706	H398		H3498
בְּ	הָאָרֶץ:						
in	the land						
H7130	H776						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 7:15 (Parallel theme): Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.