

Isaiah 7:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass in that day, that every place shall be, where there were a thousand vines at a thousand silverlings, it shall even be for briars and thorns.

Analysis

The transformation of vineyards into brier-filled wasteland demonstrates the economic and agricultural devastation of divine judgment. In ancient Israel, vineyards represented prosperity and careful cultivation (cf. Isaiah 5:1-7). The valuation 'a thousand vines at a thousand silverlings' indicates premium vineyard land. The thorns and briars symbolize the curse of Genesis 3:18, a return to chaos when God withdraws His blessing. This serves as a sobering reminder that material prosperity without covenant faithfulness is temporary.

Historical Context

Vineyards were among the most valuable agricultural assets in ancient Judah, requiring years of investment and maintenance. A thousand silverlings (shekels) would represent substantial wealth. The Assyrian devastation of 701 BC saw systematic destruction of Judah's agricultural infrastructure, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy with precision. Sennacherib's annals boast of destroying vineyards and cutting down fruit trees throughout Judah.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do our 'vineyards'—our investments, careers, and treasures—become overgrown when we neglect spiritual priorities?
2. What does this verse teach about the fleeting nature of material prosperity apart from God's blessing?
3. How does God use economic hardship to call His people back to covenant faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

וְיִהְיֶה	בַּיּוֹם	בְּיַהְיָה	בְּיַהְיָה	בְּיַהְיָה	בְּיַהְיָה	בְּיַהְיָה
H1961	And it shall come to pass in that day	H1931	H1961	H1961	H1961	H3605
	H3117					
בְּמַקְדֵּשׁ	שְׁמָרָה	בְּאֶלְף	בְּאֶלְף	בְּאֶלְף	בְּאֶלְף	בְּאֶלְף
that every place	that a thousand	at a thousand	vines	at a thousand		
H4725	H834	H1961	H8033	H505	H1612	H505
כַּעֲדָלִים	לְשָׂמֶן יְרֵא	וְלִשְׁתִּית	וְיַהְיָה:			
silverlings	it shall even be for briars	and thorns	H1961			
H3701	H8068		H7898			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 5:6 (Parallel theme): And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

Matthew 21:33 (Parallel theme): Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: