

Isaiah 7:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

With arrows and with bows shall men come thither; because all the land shall become briers and thorns.

Analysis

The necessity of armed defense while traveling the land reveals complete societal breakdown. Arrows and bows weren't agricultural tools but weapons of war and hunting. The phrase 'all the land shall become briers and thorns' emphasizes total desolation—what God carefully cultivated would return to wilderness. This physical judgment mirrors spiritual reality: when God's people abandon Him, chaos ensues. The Reformed doctrine of common grace recognizes that all order and prosperity flow from God's restraining hand.

Historical Context

In peacetime, farmers traveled unarmed. The need for weapons indicates lawlessness, wild animal threats, and banditry following Assyria's destruction. The transformation of cultivated land to wilderness would take mere years without maintenance, as Middle Eastern agriculture depends on constant irrigation and care. This prophecy was literally fulfilled when Judah's population was decimated in 701 BC.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the withdrawal of God's restraining grace lead to societal and moral chaos?
2. What spiritual 'wildernesses' emerge in our lives when we neglect our relationship with God?
3. In what ways do we arm ourselves against spiritual dangers in a fallen world?

Interlinear Text

שָׁמַן יְרֵא	בְּחִזְקָא יְמִם	וּבְקָרְבָּנָת	בְּזֹא	וְבָא	מָה	שְׁמַע	יְרֵא	שָׁמַן	בְּחִזְקָא יְמִם
With arrows	and with bows	shall men come			H8033	H3588	shall become briars		
H2671	H7198	H935					H8068		

בְּאָרֶץ	כִּי	שְׁמַע	יְרֵא	שָׁמַן	בְּחִזְקָא	וּבְקָרְבָּנָת	בְּזֹא	וְבָא	מָה
and thorns	H1961	H3605	thither because all the land						
H7898			H776						

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