

# Isaiah 7:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And on all hills that shall be digged with the mattock, there shall not come thither the fear of briers and thorns: but it shall be for the sending forth of oxen, and for the treading of lesser cattle.

## Analysis

Hills once terraced for productive farming would become pasture for grazing animals, showing economic regression and depopulation. The 'digging with the mattock' refers to the intensive labor required for hillside cultivation in ancient Palestine. The fear of 'briers and thorns' prevents agricultural work, completing the cycle of judgment. This passage illustrates how God's discipline can be comprehensive, affecting every aspect of life. Yet even in judgment, God provides—the land supports basic livestock, preserving the remnant.

## Historical Context

Terraced hillside agriculture was essential in mountainous Judah, requiring enormous labor to build and maintain. These terraces prevented erosion and maximized arable land. When populations declined and terror made farming impossible, terraces collapsed and reverted to rough pasture. Archaeological surveys show dramatic agricultural decline in Judah following Sennacherib's invasion, with many terraced hills abandoned for centuries.

## Related Passages

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's discipline touch every area of our lives until we return to Him?
2. What can we learn from the transformation of productive labor into mere subsistence?
3. In what ways does God preserve His people even in the midst of comprehensive judgment?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא	יֵשׁ	דֶּרֶךְ	וְיַחַד	בְּמַעַדְךָ	אֲשֶׁר	רָאשָׁךְ	יָמִים	וְכָל	לִכְלָדָה
H3605	<b>And on all hills</b>	H2022	H834	<b>with the mattock</b>	H4576	<b>that shall be digged</b>	H5737	H3808	
וְאַתָּה	יְרַא	תְּשִׁמְתִּיר	שְׁמַתְּמָה	וְאַתָּה	יְרַא	תְּשִׁמְתִּיר	שְׁמַתְּמָה	וְאַתָּה	יְרַא
<b>there shall not come thither</b>	H935	H8033	<b>the fear</b>	H3374	<b>of briers</b>	H8068	<b>and thorns</b>	H7898	H1961
וְאַתָּה	יְרַא	תְּשִׁמְתִּיר	שְׁמַתְּמָה	וְאַתָּה	יְרַא	תְּשִׁמְתִּיר	שְׁמַתְּמָה	וְאַתָּה	יְרַא
<b>but it shall be for the sending forth</b>	H4916	<b>of oxen</b>	H7794	<b>and for the treading</b>	H4823	<b>of lesser cattle</b>	H7716		