

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

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

לֹא	יַעַד וְרֹאשׁ	בַּמַּטְוֶה	אֲשֶׁר	הֵהָרִים	וְכָל
H3808	H5737	H4576	H834	H2022	H3605
	that shall be	with the		And on all	
	digged	mattock		hills	
וְהָיָה	וְאֵשׁ יִתְּ	שִׁמְרֵי	יִרְאֵת	שֶׁמָּה	תָּבֹא
H1961	H7898	H8068	H3374	H8033	H935
	and thorns	of briers	the fear		there shall not
					come thither
שָׁהּ:	וּלְמַרְמֵס	שׁוֹר	לְמַשְׁלַח		
H7716	H4823	H7794	H4916		
of lesser	and for the	of oxen	but it shall be		
cattle	treading		for the sending		
			forth		