

Isaiah 9:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts is the land darkened, and the people shall be as the fuel of the fire: no man shall spare his brother.

Analysis

Divine wrath darkens the land, and the people become fuel for the fire. 'No man shall spare his brother' describes complete social breakdown—even familial bonds dissolve. This civil war emerges from God's wrath combined with human wickedness. The phrase 'fuel of the fire' suggests people become both perpetrators and victims—in destroying others, they destroy themselves. This depicts the logical endpoint of abandoning God: chaos, where self-interest destroys community, and everyone becomes everyone else's enemy.

Historical Context

Israel's final decades featured multiple coups, assassinations, and civil conflicts (2 Kings 15). Kings were murdered by their own officers; tribes fought each other; faction warred against faction. The Assyrian crisis exacerbated these internal divisions. By the time Assyria besieged Samaria, the nation had already consumed itself internally. Societal cohesion completely collapsed, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy with horrifying precision.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does rejecting God's authority lead to societal breakdown and violence?
2. What does this verse teach about the fragility of social order apart from shared moral foundations?
3. How can we maintain Christian unity and brotherly love in increasingly divided societies?

Interlinear Text

בְּעֵבֶר תְּ	יְהִי הָ	אָז	אֵין
Through the wrath	of the LORD	of hosts	darkened
H5678	H3068	H6635	H6272
is the land			H1961
בְּעֵם	כִּמְאָכֵלְתָ	אִישׁ	אֶל
and the people	shall be as the fuel	of the fire	no man
H5971	H3980	H784	H413
אֶחָד	אֶחָד	אֶחָד	his brother
			H3808
יְחִימְלָוְ:			
shall spare			
H2550			

Additional Cross-References

Micah 7:2 (Parallel theme): The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.

Micah 7:6 (Parallel theme): For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house.