

“Fading Glory”
Isaiah 17:1-11

Aram V. 1-3

Isaiah pronounces judgment on Aram, a people group larger than Syria as Aram stretches from Damascus to Aroer. Ammon was an independent nation but they were nomadic people that were powerless and controlled by Aram. Damascus all the way down to Aroer will be destroyed and deserted with very few people remaining and the flocks will lay in the cities with no fear because there are no more people there. In 732 B.C. Damascus falls to the Assyrians deserted and in ruins. The Syrian remnant will be brought low like the glory of Jacob v.4. **Amos 1:3-5**

In V.4-11 the focus turns to Israel who had alliances Syria.

The Harvested Field V. 4-6

An old man – The Glory or life has faded and the aged man has lost weight and vitality.
1 Samuel 4:12-22

A stripped field – After Gleaners go through the field none is left. The field is stripped bare. The Valley of Rephaim was west of Jerusalem and produced most of the crops for Jerusalem. It was also a place of great conquest for David. **2 Samuel 5:17-25**

A harvested orchard – The olive, berry and fruit trees would be shaken and picked leaving only the most difficult to reach fruit which would then rot on the branch.
Jeremiah 6:9-12

Their Maker V.7-8

Asherim – A Canaanite fertility god.

Israel will one day turn from their idols and to their maker. This happened periodically throughout Israel’s history but will not occur completely until the end times.

Micah 5:7-15

The Empty Pride V. 9-11

Rock of Your Refuge – They have turned away and stepped out of the protection of God relying on themselves. **Exodus 33:17-23**

Israel abandoned their idols but they also abandoned God and relied on their own plans, strength and provision. **Proverbs 1:20-33**

Application

Discussion Questions

What fades your relationship with God?

What idols do you or have you abandoned?

How can you nurture your Rock of Refuge?

Homework

Read *Isaiah 17:12 - CH. 18*

Answer the following questions:

1. What does God's Word say? List the facts.
2. What does God's Word mean? Learn the lessons.
3. What does God's Word mean to me? Listen to His voice.
4. How will I respond to God's Word today? Live it out.

Write down every day the glories or blessings of God that you see from His "Rock of Refuge" that He has you in.