

Amos 1:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour the palaces thereof, with shouting in the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind:

Analysis

I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah (אָשָׁת אַשְׁ בְּחֹמֶת רְבָבָה, atsit esh b'chomat rabbah)—God's judgment comes as consuming fire against Ammon's capital. The Hebrew **אָשָׁת** (atsit, 'I will kindle') emphasizes divine agency; this is not merely human warfare but Yahweh's direct intervention. **With shouting in the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind** combines military siege (הַרְעָעָה, teruah, the war cry) with natural disaster imagery—God orchestrates both human armies and cosmic forces for judgment.

Rabbah (modern Amman, Jordan) represented Ammonite pride and military power. The 'palaces' (ארמְנוֹתֶה, armenoteha) symbolize accumulated wealth gained through oppression. This prophecy was fulfilled when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Ammon in 582 BC, though Christ ultimately judges all nations at His return (Matthew 25:31-46).

Historical Context

Amos prophesied around 760-750 BC during Jeroboam II's reign. Ammon, descended from Lot (Genesis 19:38), had longstanding enmity with Israel. They committed atrocities against Gilead (Amos 1:13), including ripping open pregnant women to expand territory—crimes that demanded divine retribution.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty over nations challenge modern nationalism and the belief that any country is beyond judgment?
2. What 'palaces' of accumulated wealth in your life might represent injustice or oppression of others?
3. How should the certainty of divine judgment against evil comfort those who suffer injustice today?

Interlinear Text

אֶרְמָנּוֹתָ תִּבְאַלְהָ תִּאְכַלְהָ תִּבְהַרְבֵּבָה תִּבְהַרְבֵּבָה תִּבְהַרְבֵּבָה
But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah and it shall devour the palaces
H3341 H784 H2346 H7237 H398 H759

בְּתִרְזָעָה בְּיֹום בְּיֹום בְּיֹום בְּיֹום
thereof with shouting in the day of battle with a tempest in the day
H8643 H3117 H4421 H5591 H3117

סִוףָה:
of the whirlwind
H5492

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 49:2 (Parallel theme): Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will cause an alarm of war to be heard in Rabbah of the Ammonites; and it shall be a desolate heap, and her daughters shall be burned with fire: then shall Israel be heir unto them that were his heirs, saith the LORD.

Deuteronomy 3:11 (Parallel theme): For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants; behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? nine cubits was the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man.

Amos 2:2 (Parallel theme): But I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth: and Moab shall die with tumult, with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet:

Isaiah 30:30 (Parallel theme): And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lightning down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.

2 Samuel 12:26 (Parallel theme): And Joab fought against Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and took the royal city.