

Amos 1:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And their king shall go into captivity, he and his princes together, saith the LORD.

Analysis

Their king shall go into captivity, he and his princes together (וְיָלַךְ מֶלֶךְם, v'halach malkam bagolah)—The Hebrew מֶלֶךְם (malkam) is a wordplay: it means both 'their king' and references Molech/Milcom, the Ammonite deity to whom children were sacrificed (1 Kings 11:5, 33). Both human rulers and false gods prove powerless before Yahweh. **Saith the LORD** (אָמַר יְהוָה, amar YHWH) is the prophetic authentication formula—this is not Amos's opinion but God's irrevocable decree.

The collapse of both political and religious systems signifies total judgment. No refuge remains—not in military might, political alliances, or false worship. This pattern repeats throughout history when nations trust in anything besides the true God.

Historical Context

The Babylonian exile fulfilled this prophecy. Archaeological evidence shows Rabbah was destroyed in the 6th century BC. Ironically, Ammonites had long practiced child sacrifice to Molech, and now their god and king both went into captivity—helpless before the covenant God of Israel.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What false 'kings' or authorities do people trust in today instead of the LORD —government, wealth, ideology, self?
2. How does the exile of both human rulers and false gods demonstrate that all idolatry ends in captivity?
3. In what ways might Christians today be trusting in political power rather than the kingdom of God?

Interlinear Text

וְיַלְלֵךְ מֶלֶךְ מַלְכֵי הָאָרֶבֶל אֶלְשָׁכְרִים יְחִידָה
shall go And their king into captivity he and his princes together
H1980 H4428 H1931 H8269 H3162

אָמַר יְהוָה:
saith the LORD
H559 H3068

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 49:3 (Kingdom): Howl, O Heshbon, for Ai is spoiled: cry, ye daughters of Rabbah, gird you with sackcloth; lament, and run to and fro by the hedges; for their king shall go into captivity, and his priests and his princes together.