

Amos 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; An adversary there shall be even round about the land; and he shall bring down thy strength from thee, and thy palaces shall be spoiled.

Analysis

An adversary there shall be even round about the land (צַר וְסָבִיב הָאֶרֶץ, tzar us'viv ha'aretz)—The enemy surrounds them completely; no escape remains. The term צַר (tzar, 'adversary, enemy, distress') appears with geographical emphasis: וְסָבִיב (us'viv, 'all around'). **He shall bring down thy strength from thee** (וְהוֹרִיד יָמֶיךָ מִמֶּנֶּךָ עֶזְךָ, v'horid mimech uzech)—their military power (עֶזְךָ, uzech) will be 'brought down' (וְהוֹרִיד, horid, literally 'caused to descend'). **Thy palaces shall be spoiled** (וְנָבוֹזוּ אֶרְמוֹנוֹתֶיךָ, v'navozu armenotayich)—plundered completely.

This reverses Israel's covenant promises. God promised protection from enemies (Leviticus 26:6-8), but covenant-breaking brings covenant curses (Leviticus 26:14-17). The Assyrian invasion of 722 BC fulfilled this literally—Samaria fell after three-year siege, and the nation never recovered.

Historical Context

In 724 BC, Shalmaneser V of Assyria besieged Samaria; his successor Sargon II completed the conquest in 722 BC. The Assyrians deported 27,290 Israelites according to Assyrian records, replacing them with foreign peoples (2 Kings 17:5-6, 24). The Northern Kingdom ceased to exist—fulfilling Amos's prophecy exactly.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does breaking covenant with God remove His protection and guarantee judgment?
2. What false securities—military might, economic power, political alliances—do nations trust in today?
3. How should the certainty of God's judgment against covenant-breaking inform Christian faithfulness in our generation?

Interlinear Text

כֹּה לֵךְ	אָמַר	יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי	צָר
H3651	H3541	H136	H3069
	Therefore thus saith	the Lord	GOD
	H559		H6862
וְסָב יֵב	הָאָרֶץ	וְהוֹרִיד	מִמֶּנָּה
H5439	H776	H3381	H4480
there shall be even round about	the land	and he shall bring down	
עֲזֶיךָ	וְנִבְּזָה	אֶרְמוֹנוֹתֶיךָ:	
H5797	H962	H759	
thy strength	shall be spoiled	from thee and thy palaces	

Additional Cross-References

Amos 2:5 (Parallel theme): But I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem.

Amos 6:14 (References God): But, behold, I will raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel, saith the LORD the God of hosts; and they shall afflict you from the entering in of Hemath unto the river of the wilderness.

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