

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 (צָר וְסֻבִּיב בְּאָרֶץ, tzar us'viv ha'aretz)—The enemy surrounds them completely; no escape remains. The term צָר (tzar, 'adversary, enemy, distress') appears with geographical emphasis: וְסֻבִּיב (us'viv, 'all around'). **He shall bring down thy strength from thee** (וְהוֹרִיד, v'horid mimech uzech)—their military power (עֹז, uzech) will be 'brought down' (הוֹרִיד, horid, literally 'caused to descend'). **Thy palaces shall be spoiled** (וְנִבְזַּע אֶרְמָנוּתֶיךָ, v'nisba'z 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

לְכָךְ אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶרְאָנָה
H3651 H3541 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD An adversary

וְיִסְבֶּב יְבָא רֶאָה וְיִהְזֹקֵעַ מִקְרָב
H5439 H776 H3381 H4480 there shall be even round about the land and he shall bring down מִקְרָב

עִזְתְּךָ יִגְבְּהֵה אֶרְמָנוּתְּךָ
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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