

Ezekiel 21:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Appoint a way, that the sword may come to Rabbath of the Ammonites, and to Judah in Jerusalem the defenced.

Analysis

'Appoint a way, that the sword may come to Rabbath of the Ammonites, and to Judah in Jerusalem the defenced.' The two targets: Rabbath (Ammon's capital) and Jerusalem. Both are 'defenced' (fortified), but neither defense will prevent God's judgment. Nebuchadnezzar must choose which to attack first. Both will eventually fall, but the order matters for the narrative and theological purposes.

Historical Context

Nebuchadnezzar chose to attack Jerusalem first (588-586 BC), postponing Ammon's judgment. Later, Babylon also conquered Ammon, fulfilling prophecies in Ezekiel 25:1-7, Jeremiah 49:1-6. Both nations opposed God and suffered judgment, though at different times according to divine sovereignty.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does God's judgment on multiple nations teach about His universal justice?
2. How do we understand timing differences in judgment while maintaining confidence in its certainty?

Interlinear Text

דֶּרֶךְ	תִּשָּׂא יָמַי	לָב וָאֵל	חֶרֶב	אֵת	רַבָּת	בְּנֵי
a way	Appoint	may come	that the sword	H853	to Rabbath	of the Ammonites
H1870	H7760	H935	H2719		H7237	H1121
וְעַמּוֹן	וְיְהוּדָה	בִּירוּשָׁלַם	בְּצוּרָה:			
H5983	H853	and to Judah	in Jerusalem	the defenced		
		H3063	H3389	H1219		

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.

Amos 1:14 (Parallel theme): 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:

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.

Ezekiel 25:5 (Parallel theme): And I will make Rabbah a stable for camels, and the Ammonites a couchingplace for flocks: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

