

Ezekiel 21:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou, son of man, prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning the Ammonites, and concerning their reproach; even say thou, The sword, the sword is drawn: for the slaughter it is furbished, to consume because of the glittering:

Analysis

The sword, the sword is drawn: for the slaughter it is furbished—This oracle shifts from Babylon (21:1-27) to Ammon, who gloated over Judah's fall. The Hebrew חֶרֶב (herev, 'sword') is repeated for emphasis, with מְרֻטָּה (měruṭṭāh, 'drawn/unsheathed') and מְרוּטָּה (měrûṭāh, 'polished/furbished') showing the weapon's readiness.

Concerning the Ammonites, and concerning their reproach (חֶרְפָּתָם, herpātām)—Ammon mocked Jerusalem's destruction (25:3, 6), but God's sword would not return to its sheath until Ammon too was judged. The 'glittering' (בָּרָק, bārāq, 'lightning/flash') describes the polished blade's terrifying appearance. Five years after Jerusalem fell (587 BC), Nebuchadnezzar conquered Ammon (582 BC), fulfilling this prophecy exactly.

Historical Context

The Ammonites (descendants of Lot through incest, Genesis 19:38) occupied territory east of the Jordan River. They perpetually opposed Israel and rejoiced at Jerusalem's fall in 586 BC. Ezekiel prophesied their destruction circa 587 BC, shortly after his visions of Jerusalem's judgment.

