

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 **בְּרֵב** (herev, 'sword') is repeated for emphasis, with **מְרֻטְטָה** (mērutṭāh, 'drawn/unsheathed') and **מְרֻטָּה** (mērūṭāh, 'polished/furbished') showing the weapon's readiness.

Concerning the Ammonites, and concerning their reproach (מִמְרָטָה, ḥerpātām)—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.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does rejoicing over others' judgment invite judgment upon ourselves?
2. What does God's extended 'sword' metaphor teach about His impartial justice?
3. How should believers respond when witnessing divine judgment on the wicked?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה בָּנֵי אָדָם אָמַרְתָּ בְּנֵי הָבָב אָמַרְתָּ כִּי הָבָב אָמַרְתָּ
H859 And thou son of man prophesy Thus saith H3541 Thus saith
H1121 H120 H5012 H559 H559

אָל עַמּוֹ אָל יְהוָה אָדָם
the Lord GOD And thou son H5983 H413 H1121 H136 H3069

סְרִיפָתָם וְאָמַרְתָּ כִּי רַב הַסִּירָפָתָם כִּי רַב הַסִּירָפָתָם
and concerning their reproach Thus saith the sword the sword is drawn
H2781 H559 H2719 H2719 H6605

לְמַעַן לְבָכְיל מְרוּטָה בְּכָךְ: לְמַעַן לְבָכְיל מְרוּטָה בְּכָךְ:
for the slaughter it is furbished to consume H4616 because of the glittering
H2874 H4803 H398 H1300

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 21:20 (Word): Appoint a way, that the sword may come to Rabbath of the Ammonites, and to Judah in Jerusalem the defenced.

