

Ezekiel 25:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, therefore I will deliver thee to the men of the east for a possession, and they shall set their palaces in thee, and make their dwellings in thee: they shall eat thy fruit, and they shall drink thy milk.

Analysis

God's judgment fits the crime: Ammon rejoiced at Israel's exile, so they would experience foreign occupation by 'men of the east' (Arabian nomadic tribes). The ironic reversal shows divine justice—their territory would become pastureland for foreign flocks, just as they hoped to possess Israel's land. God's judgments are always righteous and proportionate.

Historical Context

After Babylon's fall to Persia (539 BC), Arabian tribes increasingly dominated former Ammonite territory. By the Hellenistic period, Ammonite ethnic identity had largely disappeared, absorbed by Arab populations.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you see God's justice operating in the principle that nations reap what they sow?
2. What does proportionate judgment teach about God's character as both loving and just?

Interlinear Text

לְכָה	הַנּוּ	וְתַנְתִּל	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים	לְבָנִים
H3651	H2005		H5414	H1121		H6924
Behold therefore I will deliver		thee to the men			of the east	
for a possession	and they shall set	their palaces				
H4181	H3427	H2918				
לְמַמְרֵשׁ	וְיַשְׁבֶּה	בָּתִים	וְיַשְׁבֶּה	בָּתִים	וְאֶכְלֶל	וְאֶכְלֶל
Behold therefore I will deliver		their dwellings			in thee they shall eat	
H5414		H4908		H1992		H398
thy fruit	and they shall drink	thy milk				
H6529	H8354	H2461				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 28:51 (Parallel theme): And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee.

Deuteronomy 28:33 (Parallel theme): The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up; and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed alway:

Judges 6:33 (Parallel theme): Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together, and went over, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel.

Isaiah 1:7 (Parallel theme): Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

1 Kings 4:30 (Parallel theme): And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.

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