

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

Psalms 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

לִּי H3651	הִנְנִי H2005	וְנִתְּנוּ H5414	לְבָנֵי H1121	קֵדְמֵ H6924
		Behold therefore I will deliver	thee to the men	of the east
לְמוֹכָשׁ H4181	וַיֵּשְׁבוּ H3427	בְּתֵי H2918	מִסִּדְּוָתֵיהֶם H0	
for a possession	and they shall set	their palaces		
וְנִתְּנוּ H5414	בְּתֵי H0	מִשְׁכְּנֵיהֶם H4908	הֵמָּה H1992	וַיֹּאכְלוּ H398
Behold therefore I will deliver		their dwellings		in thee they shall eat
פְּרִי H6529	וְהֵמָּה H1992	וַיִּשְׁתּוּ H8354	חֲלָבָהּ H2461	
thy fruit		and they shall drink	thy milk	

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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