

Ezekiel 31:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth.

Analysis

I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall—When Assyria fell, גּוֹיִם (gôyim, 'nations') הִרְעִשָּׂתִי (hir'ashtî, 'I made shake/quake'). The verb רָעַשׂ (râ'ash, 'to quake') describes earthquake-like trembling—fear and instability.

When I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit—בְּהִרְאֵדִי אֶתְּךָ שְׁאֹלָה (běhôridî 'ôtô shě'ôlâh, 'when I brought him down to Sheol'). God actively casts down proud empires. **And all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth**—Previously fallen great nations ('trees of Eden,' 'choice of Lebanon') are 'comforted' נִהְמָמָה (nihämâh) by Assyria joining them in Sheol. Misery loves company; fallen empires find grim comfort in others' descent. This dark humor underscores that all human glory ends identically: death, Sheol, insignificance.

Historical Context

Assyria's fall (612 BC) did destabilize the ancient Near East. Babylon and Egypt rushed to fill the power vacuum, leading to conflicts including the battles of Carchemish (605 BC) and Jerusalem's destruction (586 BC). Nations 'shook' as the

geopolitical order collapsed. Ezekiel, writing in the 580s BC, draws on recent memory to warn Egypt: you will join Assyria in Sheol, shocking nations as she did.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does nations 'shaking' at empires' falls teach about geopolitical interconnection?
2. How is fallen empires being 'comforted' by others' falls darkly ironic?
3. What does all great nations ending in Sheol teach about ultimate values?

Interlinear Text

וְרֹאֵד נָסַע מִפְלָטוֹן מִקְּרָב וְלָהּ
I made the nations when I cast him down
at the sound of his fall to shake

H1471 H3381 H7493 H4658 H6963

בְּרֹאֵב וְלֹא שָׁא אֶת שָׁא וְלֹהֵא אֶת שָׁא
shall be comforted into the pit when I cast him down to hell
when I cast him down to hell

H5162 H953 H3381 H854 H7585 H853

מִבְּרֹאֵב בְּאֶרְזָה תְּחִתָּה כָּל עַצְיָה עַד זָהָן רְכָב
the choice of Eden and all the trees and all that drink water
of the earth in the nether parts and best of Lebanon

H4005 H5731 H6086 H3605 H8482 H776

מִים: שְׁתִּי כָּל לְבָנָן וְלְטוּב
water all that drink and best of Lebanon

H4325 H8354 H3605 H3844 H2896

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 14:15 (Parallel theme): Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Isaiah 14:8 (Parallel theme): Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.

Ezekiel 26:15 (Creation): Thus saith the Lord GOD to Tyrus; Shall not the isles shake at the sound of thy fall, when the wounded cry, when the slaughter is made in the midst of thee?

Ezekiel 27:28 (Parallel theme): The suburbs shall shake at the sound of the cry of thy pilots.

Ezekiel 31:9 (Creation): I have made him fair by the multitude of his branches: so that all the trees of Eden, that were in the garden of God, envied him.

Habakkuk 2:17 (Creation): For the violence of Lebanon shall cover thee, and the spoil of beasts, which made them afraid, because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

Haggai 2:7 (Parallel theme): And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.