

Ezekiel 32:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whose graves are set in the sides of the pit, and her company is round about her grave: all of them slain, fallen by the sword, which caused terror in the land of the living.

Analysis

Whose graves are set in the sides of the pit continues describing Assyria's burial. And her company is round about her grave indicates mass burial. All of them slain, fallen by the sword, which caused terror in the land of the living notes the irony: those who terrorized others now lie defeated. Which caused terror emphasizes Assyria's brutal reputation—feared throughout the ancient world for extreme violence. Yet all their terror couldn't prevent their own destruction. Those who live by violence die by violence. Fear they inspired couldn't save them. Only God is ultimately fearsome.

Historical Context

Assyrian military brutality was legendary and deliberate—they used terror as policy, impaling, flaying, and mutilating captives to terrorize potential rebels. Assyrian records and reliefs boast of these atrocities. Yet all this cruelty couldn't prevent Assyria's fall. Violence begets violence; those who terrorize eventually face terror. Divine justice ensures evildoers experience what they inflicted on others.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the fate of brutal empires demonstrate divine justice?
2. What does violence begetting violence teach about earthly power?
3. Why can't terror save those who employ it?

Interlinear Text

קָהָלָהּ	וְיָהּ	בְּ	בְּ	קִבְרֹתֶיהָ	נִתְּנוּ	אֲשֶׁר
	H1961					H834
and her company		of the pit	in the sides	Whose graves	are set	
H6951		H953	H3411	H6913	H5414	
בְּחֶרֶב	נָפְלוּ	יָמָם	הָלְלוּ	כָּל	קִבְרֹתֶיהָ	סָבִיב
				H3605		
by the sword	fallen		all of them slain	her grave	is round about	
H2719	H5307		H2491	H6900	H5439	
חַיִּים:	בְּ	רֶחֶץ	חַתּוּת	נִתְּנוּ	אֲשֶׁר	
						H834
of the living	in the land	terror	are set			
H2416	H776	H2851	H5414			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 26:20 (Parallel theme): When I shall bring thee down with them that descend into the pit, with the people of old time, and shall set thee in the low parts of the earth, in places desolate of old, with them that go down to the pit, that thou be not inhabited; and I shall set glory in the land of the living;

Psalms 27:13 (Parallel theme): I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Ezekiel 26:17 (Parallel theme): And they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and say to thee, How art thou destroyed, that wast inhabited of seafaring men, the

renowned city, which wast strong in the sea, she and her inhabitants, which cause their terror to be on all that haunt it!

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