

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

אָשָׁר	נָתַן וְ	יְהִי בָּרוּךְ	בְּיַרְכָת יְהָ	קָבָרָת יְהָ	וְ	הַקְבִּיל
H834	are set	Whose graves	in the sides	of the pit	H1961	and her company
H5414	H6913		H3411	H953		H6951
וְ	סְבִיב וְתָ	קָבָרָת הַ	כָּל מָ	נִפְלָיִם	נִפְלָיִם	בְּ
is round about	her grave	H3605	all of them slain	fallen	by the sword	
H5439	H6900		H2491	H5307		H2719
אָשָׁר	נָתַן וְ	יְהִי בָּרוּךְ	בְּיַרְכָת יְהָ	קָבָרָת יְהָ	וְ	הַקְבִּיל
H834	are set	terror	in the land	of the living		
H5414	H2851		H776	H2416		

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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