

Ezekiel 32:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There be the princes of the north, all of them, and all the Zidonians, which are gone down with the slain; with their terror they are ashamed of their might; and they lie uncircumcised with them that be slain by the sword, and bear their shame with them that go down to the pit.

Analysis

There be the princes of the north, all of them, and all the Zidonians—נְסִיכֵי צָפוֹן (nēsîkhê šāphôn, 'princes of the north')—likely rulers of Syrian/Aramean states. צִידוֹנִים (Ṣîdônîm, Sidonians)—Phoenician city already judged (28:20-23).

Which are gone down with the slain; with their terror they are ashamed of their might—Despite חִתִּיתָם (hittîtam, 'their terror/dread'), they're now בוֹשִׁים (bôshîm, 'ashamed') מִגְבוּרָתָם (migbûrâtām, 'of their might'). Warriors who terrorized others now experience shame—their might proved empty. **And they lie uncircumcised with them that be slain by the sword**—The refrain: among עֲרֵלִים ('ărêlîm, 'uncircumcised'), with הִלְלֵי־חֶרֶב (hallê-herēb, 'slain of the sword'). **And bear their shame with them that go down to the pit**—כְּלִמָּה (kělimmāh, 'shame/disgrace') accompanies them to בֹּר (bôr, 'pit'). Earthly terror becomes eternal shame.

Historical Context

Northern kingdoms (Syrian/Aramean states) and Sidon fell to Assyria (8th century BC), then Babylon (6th century BC). Their feared armies proved impotent before God's judgment. 'Princes of the north' became historical footnotes—exact identities

now uncertain, illustrating how thoroughly they 'descended to the pit.' Their terror, once formidable, became shameful memory.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What is the irony of terrorists becoming ashamed of their might?
2. How does earthly terror transform into eternal shame?
3. What does the fate of 'princes of the north' (now barely remembered) teach about lasting significance?

Interlinear Text

שָׁמָּה H8033	נָסִיכֵי י H5257	צָפֹן וְ H6828	כָּל הַ H3605	וְכָל H3605	
	There be the princes	of the north			
	צִדְוֹן י H6722	אֲשֶׁר H834	יֹרְדֵי H3381	אֶת H854	חֲלָלִי H2491
	all of them and all the Zidonians	which are gone down			with the slain
	בְּחִתֵּיתָם H2851	מִגְבוּרָתָם H1369	בּוֹשִׁים H954	וְשֹׁכְבִים H7901	אֶת H854
	with their terror	of their might	they are ashamed	and they lie	uncircumcised
	חֲלָלִי H2491	בְּחֶרֶב H2719	וַיִּשָּׂא H5375	אֶת H854	יֹרְדֵי H3381
	with the slain	by the sword	and bear	their shame	which are gone down
	בּוֹר: H953				
	to the pit				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 38:6 (Parallel theme): Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.

Ezekiel 38:15 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

Ezekiel 39:2 (Parallel theme): And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:

Ezekiel 28:21 (Parallel theme): Son of man, set thy face against Zidon, and prophesy against it,

