

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—**תְּסִיכִי—אֲפָוִן** (nēsîkhē šāphôn, 'princes of the north')—likely rulers of Syrian/Aramean states. **צִידּוֹנִים** (Ṣîdōnîm, 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 **חִתִּתְמָמָם** (hittîtām, 'their terror/dread'), they're now **בָּוְשִׁים** (bôshîm, 'ashamed') **מִגְבָּרָתָמָם** (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 **עָרֵלִים** (ărēlîm, 'uncircumcised'), with **חַלְלִיִּ-חֶרֶב** (ḥallê-hereb, 'slain of the sword'). **And bear their shame with them that go down to the pit**—**כְּלֶפֶת** (kēlimmâh, 'shame/disgrace') accompanies them to **בָּור** (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

שׁ פָה	נְסִיכִי	צָפָן	כָלְמָן	אֶכְלָה
H8033	There be the princes	of the north	H3605	H3605
H5257		H6828		
אָדָן	אָשָׁר	וְרָדִי	אֶת	סְלָלִי
all of them and all the Zidonians	which are gone down	with the slain		
H6722	H3381	H2491		
בְּחִתִּית מִ	מְגֻבָּרָתֶם	בֹּשֶׁם	וְשָׁכֶב וְ	עַרְלִים
with their terror	of their might	they are ashamed	and they lie	uncircumcised
H2851	H1369	H954	H7901	H6189
סְלָלִי	וְרָדִי	אֶת		
with the slain	by the sword	and bear	which are gone down	
H2491	H2719	H5375	H3381	
בָּורָה				
to the pit				
H953				

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,

