

Isaiah 13:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land.

Analysis

The invading army comes 'from a far country, from the end of heaven'—emphasizing both geographical distance and cosmic significance. Media and Persia lay far east of Babylon. But more than that, they come as 'the weapons of his indignation'—divine instruments of wrath. Their purpose: 'to destroy the whole land.' This is not mere military conquest but execution of divine judgment. God's indignation against Babylon's pride and wickedness (see chapter 14) manifests through historical means—an invading coalition—yet remains fundamentally His act.

Historical Context

The Medes and Persians came from the Iranian plateau, far to the east. In 539 BC, Cyrus the Persian led a coalition that conquered Babylon, fulfilling this prophecy. Remarkably, Isaiah even names Cyrus (Isaiah 44:28; 45:1) over a century before his birth. The 'whole land' refers to Babylonian territory, though it may also have eschatological overtones pointing to final judgment. Ancient readers would have found it incredible that mighty Babylon would fall, yet it did—exactly as prophesied.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's use of 'far country' nations demonstrate that no earthly power escapes His sovereign control?
2. What does the phrase 'weapons of his indignation' teach about how God executes judgment in history?

Interlinear Text

בָּא ים	הָאָרֶץ:	מֵרֶחֶק	מִקֵּץ הַ	הַשָּׁמַיִם ים	יְהוָה
They come	country	from a far	from the end	of heaven	even the LORD
H935	H776	H4801	H7097	H8064	H3068
וְכָל י	זַעַם וְ	לְחַבֵּל ל	כָּל	הָאָרֶץ:	
and the weapons	of his indignation	to destroy	H3605	country	
H3627	H2195	H2254		H776	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 24:31 (Parallel theme): And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.