

Isaiah 15:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore the abundance they have gotten, and that which they have laid up, shall they carry away to the brook of the willows.

Analysis

Refugees carrying remaining possessions "to the brook of the willows" (likely the Zered valley marking Moab's southern border) depicts desperate flight with whatever can be salvaged. The phrase "the abundance they have gotten" (Hebrew *yitrah*, surplus/remainder) suggests not wealth but survival supplies—what little remains after devastation. Crossing the border represents losing homeland, identity, and security. This scene of displaced persons prefigures countless refugee movements through history. Theologically, it illustrates that earthly possessions and securities ultimately fail; only relationship with the eternal God provides refuge that cannot be shaken. The willows' association with water in desert suggests searching for life-giving resources in exile—a picture of humanity's search for hope amid judgment.

Historical Context

The "brook of the willows" (Wadi Arabah/Zered) formed the traditional boundary between Moab and Edom, mentioned in Israel's wilderness journey (Deuteronomy 2:13-14). In ancient warfare, refugees typically fled to neighboring territories, often receiving harsh treatment or enslavement. The image of carrying remaining possessions mirrors countless ancient reliefs showing deportation scenes, particularly Assyrian palace reliefs depicting conquered peoples. This prophecy's fulfillment created a diaspora of Moabite refugees, contributing to the nation's eventual disappearance from history.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does the image of refugees carrying "the abundance they have gotten" teach about the transience of earthly security?
2. How should God's people respond to displaced persons and refugees fleeing judgment?
3. In what ways does Moab's fate warn against trusting in national pride and earthly securities?

Interlinear Text

עַל	כֵּן	יִתֵּן ה'	עָשׂוּ ה'
H5921	H3651	Therefore the abundance	they have gotten
		H3502	H6213
וּפָקְדָתָם	עַל	בְּחַל	הַעֲרֵב יָם
and that which they have laid up	H5921	to the brook	of the willows
H6486		H5158	H6155
שָׂאוּם:			
shall they carry away			
H5375			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 48:36 (Parallel theme): Therefore mine heart shall sound for Moab like pipes, and mine heart shall sound like pipes for the men of Kir-heres: because the riches that he hath gotten are perished.

