

Isaiah 15:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the cry is gone round about the borders of Moab; the howling thereof unto Eglaim, and the howling thereof unto Beer-elim.

Analysis

The cry encompassing Moab's entire borders ("Eglaim" and "Beer-elim" marking extremities) indicates universal devastation—no corner spared. The amplification of mourning "unto" these distant points suggests news spreading or grief resonating throughout the land. This comprehensive judgment demonstrates that God's decrees affect entire nations, not just individuals. The geographic specificity roots the prophecy in historical reality—these aren't abstract warnings but concrete predictions about real places and peoples. Reformed eschatology sees such temporal judgments as types pointing to final judgment, when God's wrath will encompass all who reject His mercy in Christ. The howling reaching borders also suggests futility—no escape from divine judgment when it comes.

Historical Context

Eglaim and Beer-elim marked Moab's northern and southern extremities, defining the nation's traditional territory. The comprehensiveness of judgment reflects Assyrian and later Babylonian military strategies of systematic regional conquest. Archaeological evidence shows that Transjordanian kingdoms faced repeated devastation during the 8th-6th centuries BCE, with many sites showing destruction layers and abandonment. The prophecy's geographical precision demonstrates Isaiah's authentic knowledge of Moabite territory and validates the oracle's historical fulfillment.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does comprehensive judgment throughout Moab's borders teach about the inescapability of divine justice?
2. How do temporal judgments on nations serve as types of final judgment?
3. Why does God provide such specific geographical details in prophecies of judgment?

Interlinear Text

עַד מֹאֲבָב גַּבְּ וְלִבְּנֵי הַקְּרֵב יִפְּחָה הַקְּרֵב בְּזָעֵק אֶת הַזָּעֵק
H5704 of Moab H4124
H3588 is gone round about H5362
H853 the borders H2201

אֵיל יְמִינֵי אָגֵל יְמִינֵי וּבְאֵר אַלְלָתָה וְלִלְתָה
thereof unto Eglaim and the howling H0 thereof unto Beerelim
H97 H3215 H879

וְלִלְתָה:
and the howling
H3215

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