

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

כִּי	הִקַּן יָפָה	הַזְעַקָה	אֶת	גְּבוּל	מוֹאָב	עַד
H3588	is gone round about	For the cry	H853	the borders	of Moab	H5704
	H5362	H2201		H1366	H4124	
אֶלְיָם	וְלַתְּהָ:	וּבְאֶר		אֶלְיָם		
thereof unto Eglaim	and the howling	H0		thereof unto Beerehim		
H97	H3215			H879		
וְלַתְּהָ:						
and the howling						
H3215						