

Isaiah 22:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Elam bare the quiver with chariots of men and horsemen,
and Kir uncovered the shield.

Analysis

And Elam bare the quiver with chariots of men and horsemen—Elam (עִלָּם, Eilam) was an ancient kingdom east of Babylon (modern western Iran). Their soldiers carried quivers (אֶשְׁפָּה, ashpah) full of arrows, with chariots and cavalry. Elamites served in various Mesopotamian armies, including Assyria's and later Babylon's.

And Kir uncovered the shield (וְקִיר עֲרָה מָגֵן, veQir erah magen)—Kir's location is uncertain (possibly near Elam, or in Moab/Mesopotamia). "Uncovered the shield" means removing protective coverings, preparing shields for battle. Amos 1:5 and 9:7 mention Kir as a place of exile for Arameans/Syrians.

Both nations represent foreign military forces attacking Jerusalem. The specificity of naming Elam and Kir emphasizes that judgment comes through identifiable historical armies, not vague "enemies." God uses pagan nations as instruments of discipline against His own people when they trust fortifications (vv.8-11) instead of Him.

Historical Context

Elam appears in biblical and ancient Near Eastern records as a significant power. Elamites were present at Pentecost (Acts 2:9), showing their continued existence. In Isaiah's time, Elam was sometimes allied with or subject to Assyria. Later, Elam became part of the Persian Empire. The mention of specific nations shows Isaiah

prophesied concrete historical invasions, not merely symbolic judgments. God sovereignly directs nations to accomplish His purposes.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does God's use of pagan nations (Elam, Kir) to discipline His people teach about His sovereignty over all nations?
2. How should the specificity of Isaiah's prophecy (naming actual nations) strengthen our confidence in biblical prophecy?
3. What warning does this give about trusting military alliances or strength when spiritual unfaithfulness characterizes God's people?

Interlinear Text

וְעֵילָם	וְנָשׂא	אֶשְׁפָּה	בְּרָכָב	אֲדָם	פָּרָשִׁים	וְקִיר
And Elam	bare	the quiver	with chariots	of men	and horsemen	and Kir
H5867	H5375	H827	H7393	H120	H6571	H7024
עָרָה	מָגֵן:					
uncovered	the shield					
H6168	H4043					

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 16:9 (Parallel theme): And the king of Assyria hearkened unto him: for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus, and took it, and carried the people of it captive to Kir, and slew Rezin.

Isaiah 21:2 (Parallel theme): A grievous vision is declared unto me; the treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously, and the spoiler spoileth. Go up, O Elam: besiege, O Media; all the sighing thereof have I made to cease.

Amos 1:5 (Parallel theme): I will break also the bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitant from the plain of Aven, and him that holdeth the sceptre from the house of Eden: and the people of Syria shall go into captivity unto Kir, saith the LORD.

Amos 9:7 (Parallel theme): Are ye not as children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel? saith the LORD. Have not I brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt? and the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir?