

Isaiah 34:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There shall the great owl make her nest, and lay, and hatch, and gather under her shadow: there shall the vultures also be gathered, every one with her mate.

Analysis

The "great owl" making her nest and laying eggs represents creatures finding permanent habitation in ruins. The Hebrew "qippoz" (possibly arrow snake) suggests dangerous creatures breeding undisturbed. "Vultures" gathering indicates ongoing death and decay. This comprehensive picture of desolation shows that once-thriving civilization becomes the domain of predators and scavengers. The irony is stark: Edom sought security but finds only creatures of death and darkness.

Historical Context

Such detailed listing of creatures was a prophetic technique to emphasize totality. The breeding and gathering suggests not temporary but permanent desolation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does permanent desolation illustrate the enduring consequences of rejecting God?
2. What does the breeding of creatures in ruins teach about how sin multiplies when unchecked?
3. How should we view the "success" of godless societies knowing their ultimate fate?

Interlinear Text

וְבָקַעַת	הַ	וְתָמַלְתָּ	וְ	בָּקַעַת	הַ	וְתָמַלְתָּ
H8033	make her nest	There shall the great owl		and lay	and hatch	
H7077		H7091		H4422		H1234
וְיִדְגַּר	הַ	בְּצֶלֶת	וְ	וְיִדְגַּר	הַ	וְ
and gather		under her shadow		also be gathered	there shall the vultures	
H1716		H389	H8033	H6908		H1772
אָשָׁ	וְ	רְעוּתָהּ				
every one	with her mate					
H802		H7468				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 14:13 (Parallel theme): And the glede, and the kite, and the vulture after his kind,