

Jeremiah 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The young lions roared upon him, and yelled, and they made his land waste: his cities are burned without inhabitant.

Analysis

Enemy nations depicted as roaring young lions make Israel's land waste and burn cities. This vivid imagery describes Assyria and Babylon's devastating invasions as consequence of covenant unfaithfulness.

Historical Context

This verse from Jeremiah 2 continues God's covenant lawsuit against Judah, delivered during the late 7th century BC as the nation spiraled toward Babylonian exile. The prophetic indictment addresses systematic idolatry, failed political alliances, and spiritual adultery that characterized Judah from Manasseh through Jehoiakim's reigns. Archaeological evidence confirms widespread syncretistic worship practices condemned here.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does this accusation against ancient Israel reveal patterns of spiritual unfaithfulness that might appear in different forms today?
2. What does God's persistent lawsuit demonstrate about His desire for His people's return versus immediate judgment?

Interlinear Text

עָלִיו H5921	יִשְׁאַג ו roared H7580	כְּפָר יִם The young lions H3715	נָתַן ו upon him and yelled H5414	קוֹלָם H6963	וַיַּשׁ יָתוּ and they made H7896
אֶרְצוֹ his land H776	לְשָׂמָה waste H8047	עָרֵי יו his cities H5892	נִצְתָה are burned H3341	מִבְּלִי H1097	יָשֵׁב: without inhabitant H3427

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 4:7 (Parallel theme): The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant.

Jeremiah 50:17 (Parallel theme): Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones.

Isaiah 1:7 (Parallel theme): Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

Isaiah 5:29 (Parallel theme): Their roaring shall be like a lion, they shall roar like young lions: yea, they shall roar, and lay hold of the prey, and shall carry it away safe, and none shall deliver it.

Jeremiah 9:11 (Parallel theme): And I will make Jerusalem heaps, and a den of dragons; and I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant.

