

Jeremiah 25:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Dedan, and Tema, and Buz, and all that are in the utmost corners,

Analysis

Dedan, and Tema, and Buz, and all that are in the utmost corners. These Arabian peoples represent distant territories far from Israel. Dedan and Tema were Arabian trading communities (Isaiah 21:13-14, Ezekiel 27:20); Buz was Nahor's son (Genesis 22:21), possibly related to Job's friend Elihu the Buzite (Job 32:2). The phrase *kol-qəšûšê pē'â* (כל-קְשׁוּשֵׁה פְּאָה, all who cut the corners) likely refers to Arabian tribes who practiced distinctive hair-cutting (Jeremiah 9:26, 49:32), possibly pagan religious practice forbidden to Israel (Leviticus 19:27).

The inclusion of these remote peoples emphasizes the comprehensive scope of God's judgment. Not merely Israel's immediate neighbors but distant Arabian tribes would face Babylon's conquests. God's sovereignty extends to earth's remotest corners; no one escapes His jurisdiction. This principle culminates in Revelation's vision: 'every island fled away, and the mountains were not found' (Revelation 16:20). Geographic distance provides no refuge from the omnipresent Judge. Yet Scripture also promises that from these remote peoples, some will come to worship (Isaiah 60:6-7; Matthew 2:1-12).

Historical Context

Arabian territories fell under Babylonian control as Nebuchadnezzar's empire expanded. Jeremiah 49:28-33 specifically prophesies judgment on Kedar and Hazor (Arabian kingdoms), stating 'Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon shall smite them.' Cuneiform inscriptions confirm Babylonian campaigns into Arabia. These distant

peoples, seemingly far from the covenant drama of Israel and Judah, were nonetheless caught in the empire's expansion—fulfilling the prophecy that God's cup of wrath would reach 'the utmost corners.'

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does judgment extending to remote Arabian tribes demonstrate that God's sovereignty has no geographic limits?
2. What does the inclusion of distant peoples teach about universal accountability before the Creator, regardless of proximity to revealed religion?
3. In what ways should the global scope of judgment motivate worldwide evangelism—taking the gospel to 'the utmost corners' before final judgment comes?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה	דְּדָן	וְאַתָּה	תֵּימָא	וְאַתָּה	בָּזָז	וְאַתָּה	כָּל
H853	Dedan	H853	and Tema	H853	and Buz	H853	H3605
H1719		H8485		H938			
	לְכַזּוֹּץ		פָּאָה				
and all that are in the utmost		corners					
	H7112		H6285				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 9:26 (Parallel theme): Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that are in the utmost corners, that dwell in the

wilderness: for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.

Jeremiah 49:32 (Parallel theme): And their camels shall be a booty, and the multitude of their cattle a spoil: and I will scatter into all winds them that are in the utmost corners; and I will bring their calamity from all sides thereof, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 49:8 (Parallel theme): Flee ye, turn back, dwell deep, O inhabitants of Dedan; for I will bring the calamity of Esau upon him, the time that I will visit him.

Job 6:19 (Parallel theme): The troops of Tema looked, the companies of Sheba waited for them.

Genesis 22:21 (Parallel theme): Huz his firstborn, and Buz his brother, and Kemuel the father of Aram,