

Jeremiah 25:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of the mingled people that dwell in the desert,

Analysis

And all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of the mingled people that dwell in the desert. This comprehensive statement encompasses various Arabian tribal confederations. The phrase kol-malkê 'Ārāb (כָּל־מַלְכֵי עֲרָב, all the kings of Arabia) covers the diverse peoples inhabiting the Arabian peninsula and Syrian desert. The hā'ereḇ hayyōshēḇīm bammidbār (הָעֲרֵב הַיּוֹשְׁבִים בַּמִּדְבָּר, mingled people dwelling in the desert) likely refers to semi-nomadic populations—mixed ethnicities living on the fringes of settled civilization.

These desert-dwelling peoples might assume their remoteness and mobility provided security from imperial conquest. Yet God's judgment reaches even nomadic populations. This demonstrates that neither geographic isolation nor lack of fixed settlements exempts anyone from divine accountability. The principle applies spiritually: we cannot escape God by fleeing to life's margins, avoiding commitment, or remaining perpetually mobile. The psalmist declared, 'Whither shall I flee from thy presence?' (Psalm 139:7-12). God's jurisdiction is absolute and inescapable.

Historical Context

Babylonian expansion reached into Arabian territories, disrupting traditional trade routes and tribal structures. Nabonidus, Babylon's last king (556-539 BC), spent years in the Arabian oasis of Tema, exercising control over northern Arabia. The 'mingled people' of mixed ethnicity were particularly vulnerable during imperial

transitions, lacking the protection of strong ethnic or political identity. Historical records confirm widespread displacement and disruption of Arabian populations during the Neo-Babylonian period.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does judgment reaching even nomadic desert peoples demonstrate the inescapability of divine accountability?
2. What modern equivalents exist to these 'desert-dwelling' peoples—those who try to live on the margins, avoiding commitment or accountability?
3. In what ways might we attempt to 'flee to the desert' spiritually, avoiding God's claims on our lives, and why is this ultimately futile?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת	כָּל	מְלָכֵי	עַרְב	וְאֵת	כָּל	מְלָכֵי
H853	H3605	H4428	H6152	H853	H3605	H4428
		And all the kings	of Arabia			And all the kings
בְּמִדְבָּר:	הַשֹּׁכֵנִים	הָעַרְבִים				
	H6154	H7931				
	that dwell	in the desert				
		H4057				

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 9:14 (Kingdom): Beside that which chapmen and merchants brought. And all the kings of Arabia and governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon.

Jeremiah 25:20 (Kingdom): And all the mingled people, and all the kings of the land of Uz, and all the kings of the land of the Philistines, and Ashkelon, and Azzah, and Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod,

Jeremiah 50:37 (Parallel theme): A sword is upon their horses, and upon their chariots, and upon all the mingled people that are in the midst of her; and they shall become as women: a sword is upon her treasures; and they shall be robbed.

Ezekiel 30:5 (Parallel theme): Ethiopia, and Libya, and Lydia, and all the mingled people, and Chub, and the men of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword.