

Jeremiah 48:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will send unto him wanderers, that shall cause him to wander, and shall empty his vessels, and break their bottles.

Analysis

I will send unto him wanderers, that shall cause him to wander (שְׁלַחְתִּי-לוֹ) (צֵעִים וְצִטְהוּ)—The Hebrew tso'im (wanderers/tilters) uses wine-making imagery: invaders will 'tilt' Moab like workers pouring wine from jar to jar, **empty his vessels, and break their bottles** (וְנִבְלִיָּהֶם וְנִפְצְצוּ). Moab had been undisturbed like wine left on its sediment (v. 11), developing a false sense of security.

The metaphor contrasts Moab's stagnant complacency with God's disruptive judgment. Wine left on its dregs becomes bitter; nations that rest in prosperity without repentance face violent upheaval. The Babylonian invasion would shatter Moab's containers of self-reliance, exposing the worthlessness of idolatry and military might.

Historical Context

Jeremiah prophesied this oracle against Moab (c. 605-586 BC) before Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian campaigns devastated Transjordan. Moab, descended from Lot (Genesis 19:37), had long-standing hostility with Israel. The wine-making metaphor would resonate with Moab's agricultural economy in the fertile plateau east of the Dead Sea.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What 'sediment' of complacency or self-reliance has settled in your spiritual life because you've been undisturbed too long?
2. How does God's 'tilting' judgment serve a refining purpose, even when it involves breaking our comfortable containers?
3. In what ways might prosperity and peace become spiritually dangerous if they lead to stagnation rather than growth?

Interlinear Text

הָנָה לְךָ H3651 H2009	יָמֵי יָם H3117	בָּאִים H935	נָאֻם H5002	יְהוָה ה' H3068
Therefore behold the days	come	saith	the LORD	
וְשִׁלַּחְתִּי H7971	ל' ו' H0	וְצִעַ הו' H6808	וְצִעַ הו' H6808	
that I will send	that shall cause him to wander	that shall cause him to wander		
וְכָל יו' H3627	יֵר יִקּוּ H7324	וְנִבְלִיהֶם H5035	וְנִפְצּוּ: H5310	
his vessels	and shall empty	their bottles	and break	

Additional Cross-References

Nahum 2:2 (References Lord): For the LORD hath turned away the excellency of Jacob, as the excellency of Israel: for the emptiers have emptied them out, and marred their vine branches.

Isaiah 30:14 (Parallel theme): And he shall break it as the breaking of the potters' vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water withal out of the pit.

Psalms 2:9 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Jeremiah 48:38 (References Lord): There shall be lamentation generally upon all the housetops of Moab, and in the streets thereof: for I have broken Moab like a vessel wherein is no pleasure, saith the LORD.