

Jeremiah 48:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moab is spoiled, and gone up out of her cities, and his chosen young men are gone down to the slaughter, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

Analysis

Moab is spoiled, and gone up out of her cities (שָׁדָד מוֹאָב וְעָרֶיהָ עָלָה)—The verb shadad (devastated/plundered) announces total military defeat. **His chosen young men are gone down to the slaughter** (וּמִבְּחַר בַּחֲרוּרָיו יֵרָדוּ לַטָּבַח)—Moab's elite warriors (mivchar bachurav, choice of young men) descend to tabach (slaughter), the same word used for ritual animal sacrifice, suggesting their deaths are divine judgment, not merely military defeat.

Saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts (וְנָאֵם-הַמֶּלֶךְ יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת שְׁמוֹ)—This title emphasizes Yahweh's sovereign authority over all earthly kingdoms. Moab's king is nothing before Yahweh Tseva'ot, the Commander of heaven's armies. Human monarchy bows to divine kingship.

Historical Context

Jeremiah wrote during the neo-Babylonian empire's expansion under Nebuchadnezzar II (605-562 BC). Archaeological evidence shows Moabite cities were destroyed during this period, with many sites abandoned. The phrase 'LORD of hosts' appears frequently in prophetic literature confronting false gods and earthly powers with the reality of Yahweh's supreme authority.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God as 'the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts' relativize all earthly powers and authorities?
2. What does it mean that the strongest and best of Moab ('chosen young men') could not escape divine judgment?
3. In what ways does God's sovereign kingship provide comfort to the oppressed while warning the proud and powerful?

Interlinear Text

שָׁדָד	מוֹאָב	יָשַׁר יָהּ	עָלָה	וּמִבְּחָר	בְּחֹרֵי יוֹ
is spoiled	Moab	out of her cities	and gone up	and his chosen	young men
H7703	H4124	H5892	H5927	H4005	H970
יָרְדוּ	לְטַבַּח	נֹאֵם	הַמֶּלֶךְ	יְהוָה	צָבָא וְ
are gone down	to the slaughter	saith	the King	is the LORD	of hosts
H3381	H2874	H5002	H4428	H3068	H6635
שְׁמוֹ:					
whose name					
H8034					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 50:27 (Parallel theme): Slay all her bullocks; let them go down to the slaughter: woe unto them! for their day is come, the time of their visitation.

Jeremiah 46:18 (Kingdom): As I live, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts, Surely as Tabor is among the mountains, and as Carmel by the sea, so shall he come.

Jeremiah 51:57 (Kingdom): And I will make drunk her princes, and her wise men, her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men: and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 1:14 (Kingdom): But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.

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