

Jeremiah 48:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The calamity of Moab is near to come, and his affliction hasteth fast.

Analysis

The calamity of Moab is near to come (קָרוֹב אֵיד־מוֹאָב לְבוֹא)—The Hebrew eyd (calamity/disaster) is imminent (qarov, near). **And his affliction hasteth fast** (וְאֵידוֹ מְהֵרָה מָאֵד)—The verb mahar (hastens/hurries) emphasizes the urgency and inevitability of coming judgment. This echoes prophetic urgency throughout Scripture: 'The end has come' (Ezekiel 7:6), 'The time is at hand' (Revelation 1:3).

The double emphasis (near/hastening) removes false hope in delayed judgment. Peter addresses this: 'The Lord is not slack concerning His promise' (2 Peter 3:9). God's patience should inspire repentance, not presumption. Moab's time had run out—the window for turning from Chemosh to Yahweh was closing.

Historical Context

This oracle likely dates to shortly before Nebuchadnezzar's western campaigns (c. 605-600 BC). Moab had watched Assyria destroy northern Israel (722 BC) and threaten Judah under Hezekiah (701 BC), yet continued in idolatry. The 'hastening' judgment came through multiple Babylonian incursions, culminating in campaigns that devastated Transjordan around 582 BC.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does divine patience, rather than immediate judgment, demonstrate God's mercy and desire for repentance?
2. What warnings about hastening judgment might apply to contemporary society or your personal spiritual condition?
3. How should the certainty and imminence of God's judgment affect priorities, relationships, and daily choices?

Interlinear Text

קָר וְ	אֵיד	מוֹאֵ ב	לֵב וְא	וְכָ עַת ו	מְהֵרָה	מְאִדְ:
is near	The calamity	of Moab	to come	and his affliction	hasteth	fast
H7138	H343	H4124	H935	H7451	H4116	H3966

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 13:22 (Parallel theme): And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged.