

Jeremiah 48:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There shall be no more praise of Moab: in Heshbon they have devised evil against it; come, and let us cut it off from being a nation. Also thou shalt be cut down, O Madmen; the sword shall pursue thee.

Analysis

There shall be no more praise of Moab (אין-עוֹד תְהִלַת מוֹאָב)—the Hebrew tehillat (praise/glory) is the same root used in Psalms. Moab's renown will cease entirely. In **Heshbon** (חִשְׁבּוֹן), ironically meaning 'stronghold' or 'device,' enemies **devise evil** (חַשְׁבּוּ בָּעָה)—a wordplay showing that the city of 'devising' becomes the place where its own destruction is devised.

Cut it off from being a nation (נַכְרִיתָה מַהְיָה) uses the covenant curse language of karat (to cut off, destroy). The command to **Madmen** (מַדְמָן)—possibly a wordplay on damam (to be silent/destroyed)—declares: **thou shalt be cut down** (תִּדְמֹמֵי tiddommi, 'you shall be silenced'). The **sword shall pursue** (חַקֵּב תָּלֵךְ אַחֲרָיו)—relentless, inescapable judgment.

Historical Context

Heshbon, originally Amorite, had been contested between Israel and Moab for centuries (Numbers 21:26). Its strategic location on the King's Highway made it economically vital. This prophecy reverses Moab's historical boasting over territorial gains, fulfilling the curse pattern established in Deuteronomy 28.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the wordplay in Hebrew (Heshbon devising its own destruction) illustrate the principle that sin contains its own judgment?
2. What national or personal 'praise' must end when it contradicts God's purposes?
3. How does the pursuing sword image warn against thinking we can outrun consequences of rebellion?

Interlinear Text

בְּחִשְׁבָּן וְיַעֲשֵׂה אֵין תָּהֳלָת
H369 H5750 There shall be no more praise of Moab in Heshbon
H8416 H4124 H2809

וְנִכְרִיתֵת בָּהּ לְכָא רַע הַעַל יְמַשֵּׁב וְ
they have devised H5921 evil H7451 and let us cut it off H3772
H2803 H1980 H7451 H3772

אַסְכֵּן יְמַתְּמֵן מִן מִדְמֵן
from being a nation H1571 O Madmen H4086 Also thou shalt be cut down H1826
H1471 H4086 H1826 H310

וְלֹא תְּכַבֵּב הַסָּכָב
H1980 the sword H2719
H1980 H2719

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 16:14 (Parallel theme): But now the LORD hath spoken, saying, Within three years, as the years of an hireling, and the glory of Moab shall be contemned, with all that great multitude; and the remnant shall be very small and feeble.

Jeremiah 31:36 (Parallel theme): If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

Numbers 32:37 (Parallel theme): And the children of Reuben built Heshbon, and Elealeh, and Kirjathaim,

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