

Jeremiah 48:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And judgment is come upon the plain country; upon Holon,
and upon Jahazah, and upon Mephaath,

Analysis

And judgment is come upon the plain country—(וְמִשְׁפָּט בָּא אֶל-אֶרֶץ הַמִּשְׁׁחָר) Mishpat (judgment/justice) arrives on eretz hamishor (the tableland/plateau), Moab's agricultural heartland. The catalog of cities (vv. 21-24) demonstrates judgment's comprehensiveness—no town escapes. **Upon Holon, and upon Jahazah, and upon Mephaath**—These three cities represent northern Moab's settled regions.

The formulaic repetition 'upon... and upon... and upon' creates a drumbeat of inevitable judgment, city by city. This echoes Amos's oracles against nations (Amos 1-2) and anticipates Revelation's plagues (Revelation 16). Comprehensive judgment leaves no refuge—geographic spread proves God sees and judges every location, not just capitals or major centers.

Historical Context

The 'plain country' (Mishor) refers to the fertile plateau east of the Dead Sea, Moab's breadbasket. Holon's location is uncertain, but Jahazah (where Israel defeated Sihon, Numbers 21:23) and Mephaath (a Levitical city, Joshua 21:37) were significant settlements. These cities had survived for centuries; their destruction marked the end of Moabite civilization as Jeremiah knew it.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Why does God's judgment extend to every city and region, leaving no geographic refuge from accountability?
2. How does the comprehensive nature of divine judgment challenge assumptions that certain places or people are 'safe' from accountability?
3. What does the inclusion of formerly Israelite cities (like Mephaath) suggest about God's impartiality in judgment?

Interlinear Text

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|------------------|------------|--------|-------------------|----------------|------------|------------|----------|-----|
| וְמִשְׁפָּט | בְּאֵל | בְּאֵל | אֶל | רֶצֶן | הַמִּישָׁר | אֶל | חַלְוִין | אֶל |
| And judgment | is come | H413 | country | upon the plain | H413 | upon Holon | H413 | |
| H4941 | H935 | H776 | H4334 | | H2473 | | | |
| ! הַצָּהָה | ! הַצָּהָה | וְעַל | מִזְפְּעָתִים | | | | | |
| and upon Jahazah | H3096 | H5921 | and upon Mephaath | H4158 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 13:18 (Parallel theme): And Jahazah, and Kedemoth, and Mephaath,

Isaiah 15:4 (Parallel theme): And Heshbon shall cry, and Elealeh: their voice shall be heard even unto Jahaz: therefore the armed soldiers of Moab shall cry out; his life shall be grievous unto him.

Jeremiah 48:8 (Parallel theme): And the spoiler shall come upon every city, and no city shall escape: the valley also shall perish, and the plain shall be destroyed, as the LORD hath spoken.

Numbers 21:23 (Parallel theme): And Sihon would not suffer Israel to pass through his border: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and went out against Israel into the wilderness: and he came to Jahaz, and fought against Israel.

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