

Jeremiah 48:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And upon Kerioth, and upon Bozrah, and upon all the cities of the land of Moab, far or near.

Analysis

And upon Kerioth, and upon Bozrah, and upon all the cities of the land of Moab, far or near (וְעַל־קְרִיּוֹת וְעַל־בִּצְרָה וְעַל כָּל־עָרֵי אֶרֶץ־מוֹאָב הַרְחֹקוֹת וְהַקְרִיבוֹת)—Qeriyot (cities/Kerioth) was a major Moabite center, possibly the capital (Amos 2:2). Botsrah (fortress/sheepfold) represents southern Moab. The summary phrase 'far or near' (harechoqot vехаqrovot) emphasizes totality—distance provides no escape from divine judgment.

This comprehensive statement concludes the city catalog (vv. 21-24), moving from specific locations to universal application. Paul uses similar logic: 'There is no distinction; for all have sinned' (Romans 3:22-23). Geographic, economic, or military distinctions become irrelevant before God's impartial justice. Whether capital or village, fortress or farm, all stand equally accountable.

Historical Context

Kerioth appears in Amos 2:2 as a target of divine judgment: 'I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth.' Bozrah (distinct from Edomite Bozrah) represented Moab's southern extent. The phrase 'far or near' indicates Babylon's thoroughness—the entire nation from northern to southern boundaries faced destruction. Archaeological evidence confirms widespread destruction of Moabite sites during the 6th century BC.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the phrase 'far or near' challenge assumptions that distance from centers of power or visibility might exempt from divine accountability?
2. What does God's comprehensive judgment on 'all the cities' reveal about His omniscience and the impossibility of hiding from His justice?
3. In what ways should the certainty of impartial divine judgment affect how we pray for and warn both prominent and obscure communities?

Interlinear Text

וְעַל	קְרִיּוֹת	וְעַל	בְּצֶרְהָ	וְעַל	כָּל
H5921	And upon Kerioth	H5921	and upon Bozrah	H5921	H3605
	H7152		H1224		
וְעַל	אֵת כָּל	מִן	הַחֹק וְעַל	הַקְרִיבִים:	
and upon all the cities	of the land	of Moab	far	or near	
H5892	H776	H4124	H7350	H7138	

Additional Cross-References

Amos 2:2 (Parallel theme): But I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth: and Moab shall die with tumult, with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet:

Jeremiah 48:41 (Parallel theme): Kerioth is taken, and the strong holds are surprised, and the mighty men's hearts in Moab at that day shall be as the heart of a woman in her pangs.

