

Jeremiah 48:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The horn of Moab is cut off, and his arm is broken, saith the LORD.

Analysis

The horn of Moab is cut off, and his arm is broken (נִגְדַּעַת קְרֵן מוֹאָב וַיַּרְעֹז נִשְׁבָּרָה) —The qeren (horn) symbolizes power and authority (1 Samuel 2:10; Psalm 75:10), while zero'a (arm) represents military strength. Both are nigde'ah (cut off) and nishbarah (broken)—violent, permanent removal of capacity to resist or defend.

Hannah's song celebrates God exalting the horn of His anointed (1 Samuel 2:10); here He cuts off the horn of the proud. The dual imagery (horn and arm) covers both symbolic authority and practical power—Moab loses legitimacy and capability simultaneously. This anticipates Revelation's beast whose power is broken (Revelation 19:19-20). No human strength withstands divine opposition.

Historical Context

Horns frequently adorned ancient Near Eastern altars (Exodus 27:2) and symbolized deity and kingship. Moabite kings likely wore horned crowns or helmets, as depicted in ancient iconography. The 'broken arm' suggests military defeat—armies disarmed and disbanded. After Babylon's conquest, Moab ceased to exist as an independent kingdom, becoming a Persian province. The nation's 'horn' and 'arm' were permanently severed.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What 'horns' (authorities, powers, sources of pride) and 'arms' (capabilities, strengths) in your life might need to be broken for God's purposes to prevail?
2. How does the image of God cutting off human power structures challenge contemporary reliance on political, military, or economic might?
3. In what ways does Jesus's kingdom, established through weakness and crucifixion, overturn worldly assumptions about power represented by 'horns' and 'arms'?

Interlinear Text

is cut off	The horn	of Moab	and his arm	is broken	saith	the LORD
H1438	H7161	H4124	H2220	H7665	H5002	H3068

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 75:10 (Parallel theme): All the horns of the wicked also will I cut off; but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

Psalms 10:15 (Parallel theme): Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil man: seek out his wickedness till thou find none.

Job 22:9 (Parallel theme): Thou hast sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless have been broken.