

Jeremiah 48:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A voice of crying shall be from Horonaim, spoiling and great destruction.

Analysis

A voice of crying (קול צעקה qol tze'aqah)—not mere weeping but the anguished shriek of catastrophe, the same Hebrew word used for Israel's cry in Egyptian bondage (Exodus 3:7). From **Horonaim** (חֲרֹנַיִם, 'two hollows'), a city in Moab's southern ravines, comes a lament of **spoiling and great destruction** (שָׁד וְשֹׁכֵר גָּדוֹל shod vashever gadol). The pairing shod vashever intensifies the devastation—plundering and breaking, violence and ruin.

The cry echoes through the valleys, a public testimony to Moab's fall. What was once a voice of pride and idolatrous worship now becomes a voice of terror. The geographic specificity (Horonaim) grounds this prophecy in literal, historical judgment while also serving as a warning to all nations that exalt themselves against God.

Historical Context

Horonaim was located in the descent toward the Dead Sea's southeastern shore, making it a natural escape route. The prophecy depicts refugees fleeing southward, their cries echoing through the ravines. Isaiah 15:5 parallels this oracle, suggesting a traditional lament route during Moabite disasters.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God use the 'voice of crying' from judgment to warn others and call them to repentance?
2. What does the transformation from prideful speech to anguished crying teach about the end of human boasting?
3. How should the church respond when witnessing God's judgment on rebellious powers?

Interlinear Text

קול	צֶעֶקֶה	מִהֲרֹנַיִם	שׁוֹד	וְשֹׁד	גָּדוֹל:
A voice	of crying	shall be from Horonaim	spoiling	destruction	and great
H6963	H6818	H2773	H7701	H7667	H1419

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 15:5 (Parallel theme): My heart shall cry out for Moab; his fugitives shall flee unto Zoar, an heifer of three years old: for by the mounting up of Luhith with weeping shall they go it up; for in the way of Horonaim they shall raise up a cry of destruction.

Jeremiah 48:34 (Parallel theme): From the cry of Heshbon even unto Elealeh, and even unto Jahaz, have they uttered their voice, from Zoar even unto Horonaim, as an heifer of three years old: for the waters also of Nimrim shall be desolate.

Jeremiah 48:5 (Parallel theme): For in the going up of Luhith continual weeping shall go up; for in the going down of Horonaim the enemies have heard a cry of destruction.