

Jeremiah 48:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O vine of Sibmah, I will weep for thee with the weeping of Jazer: thy plants are gone over the sea, they reach even to the sea of Jazer: the spoiler is fallen upon thy summer fruits and upon thy vintage.

Analysis

O vine of Sibmah, I will weep for thee with the weeping of Jazer (מִבְּכֵי יַעְזֵר וְיִבְכֶּה לָךְ הַגֶּפֶן שִׁבְמָה)—Sibmah was renowned for vineyards producing excellent wine. God promises to weep with the intensity of Jazer's weeping—Jazer (a Moabite city) will mourn its own destruction, and God joins that lament. This intensifies verse 31's theme: divine grief over necessary judgment.

Thy plants are gone over the sea, they reach even to the sea of Jazer—Sibmah's vines were so productive they metaphorically reached across bodies of water, perhaps indicating extensive trade. **The spoiler is fallen upon thy summer fruits and upon thy vintage** (עַל-קִיְצֶךָ וְעַל-בְּצִירְךָ שָׁדַד נָפַל). The Hebrew shadad (שָׁדַד, spoiler/destroyer) has fallen (naphal, נָפַל) upon the harvest—violent, sudden destruction of what was beautiful and productive. Babylon would devastate Moab's agricultural wealth, symbol of their prosperity and pride.

Historical Context

Sibmah (also Sebam, Numbers 32:38) was in Moab's fertile northern region, famous for vineyards. Wine was a major export and source of wealth. The imagery of vines and vintage throughout this chapter (vv. 11-12, 32-33) reflects Moab's agricultural abundance, which made them proud and secure. Babylon's conquest

destroyed this economic base. The reference to 'sea of Jazer' is difficult—Jazer had no sea, so this may be metaphorical or refer to pools/reservoirs. Regardless, the point is clear: Moab's agricultural glory would be devastated.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the destruction of Sibmah's vineyards illustrate that prosperity without righteousness leads to loss?
2. What does God's weeping over Moab's economic devastation teach about His concern for all aspects of human flourishing?
3. In what ways might we trust in our productivity and prosperity rather than in God who gives the harvest?

Interlinear Text

מִבְכִּי י	יַעַז ר	אֶבְכֶּה	לָךְ	הַגֶּפֶן	שִׁבְמָה
for thee with the weeping	of Jazer	I will weep	H0	O vine	of Sibmah
H1065	H3270	H1058		H1612	H7643
נְטִישֶׁת יְךָ	עָבְרוּ	יָם	עַד	יָם	יַעַז ר
thy plants	are gone over	even to the sea	H5704	even to the sea	of Jazer
H5189	H5674	H3220		H3220	H3270
נָגְעוּ	עַל	קִיץ יְךָ	וְעַל	בְּצִיר יְךָ	שֹׁדֵד
they reach	H5921	upon thy summer fruits	H5921	and upon thy vintage	the spoiler
H5060		H7019		H1210	H7703
נָפְלָה:					
is fallen					
H5307					

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 21:32 (Parallel theme): And Moses sent to spy out Jaazer, and they took the villages thereof, and drove out the Amorites that were there.

Joshua 13:19 (Parallel theme): And Kirjathaim, and Sibmah, and Zareth-shahar in the mount of the valley,

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