

Jeremiah 48:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore mine heart shall sound for Moab like pipes, and mine heart shall sound like pipes for the men of Kir-heres: because the riches that he hath gotten are perished.

Analysis

Therefore mine heart shall sound for Moab like pipes (עֲלֵי־לִבִּי לְמוֹצָב בְּחַלִּילִים)—The word chalilim (חַלִּילִים) refers to flutes or pipes used in mourning rituals. The heart 'sounds' (hamah, הָמָה—to murmur, roar, moan) like these mournful instruments. God's (or the prophet's) heart resonates with grief like a funeral dirge. This repeats the lament theme from verse 31, intensifying the emotional expression of sorrow over judgment.

Mine heart shall sound like pipes for the men of Kir-heres—Kir-heres (Kir-hareseth), Moab's capital, receives special mention again (see v. 31). **Because the riches that he hath gotten are perished** (עֲלֵי־כֵן יִתְרַת עֶשֶׂה אֲבָדוֹ). The Hebrew yitrah (יִתְרָה) means abundance, excess, what remains—accumulated wealth. All Moab's prosperity (asah, אָשָׁה—what they made/acquired) has avad (אָבַד—perished, been destroyed). Temporal wealth proves impermanent under divine judgment.

Historical Context

Pipes (flutes) were standard instruments in ancient Near Eastern funerals and mourning rituals (Matthew 9:23). Their wailing sound accompanied public lamentation. Moab had accumulated significant wealth through agriculture (vineyards), trade routes, and tribute from subject peoples. Archaeological evidence shows Moab's material prosperity during the 8th-7th centuries BC. But Babylon's conquest destroyed this wealth—cities were plundered, populations

deported, agricultural land devastated. Material prosperity without covenant relationship with the true God ends in loss.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the imagery of mourning pipes express the reality that even necessary judgment grieves God's heart?
2. What does the perishing of Moab's accumulated riches teach about the temporary nature of wealth not grounded in righteousness?
3. In what ways might we accumulate 'riches' that could perish if not built on relationship with God?

Interlinear Text

עַל	כִּי	וְלִבִּי	לְמוֹאָב	כַּחֲלִיל יָם	יִהְיֶה הָ		
H5921	H3651	Therefore mine heart	for Moab	like pipes	shall sound		
		H3820	H4124	H2485	H1993		
	וְלִבִּי	אֶל	אֲנִשׁ י	קִיר	חֶרֶשׁ	כַּחֲלִיל יָם	יִהְיֶה הָ
	Therefore mine heart	H413	H376	H0	of Kirheres	like pipes	shall sound
	H3820				H7025	H2485	H1993
עַל	כִּי	יִתֵּב ת	עָשָׂה הָ	אֶבְדּוּ:			
H5921	H3651	because the riches	that he hath gotten	are perished			
		H3502	H6213	H6			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 15:7 (Parallel theme): Therefore the abundance they have gotten, and that which they have laid up, shall they carry away to the brook of the willows.

Isaiah 16:11 (Parallel theme): Wherefore my bowels shall sound like an harp for Moab, and mine inward parts for Kir-haresh.

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.

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