

Jeremiah 48:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moab shall be destroyed from being a people, because he hath magnified himself against the LORD.

Analysis

Moab shall be destroyed from being a people—the Hebrew shamad (שָׁמַד, destroyed, exterminated) and me'am (מֵאָם, from being a people/nation) indicate total political annihilation. Moab would cease to exist as an independent nation. This is not ethnic genocide but the end of Moabite national sovereignty—their identity as a distinct political entity would be obliterated.

Because he hath magnified himself against the LORD—the causation is explicit. The verb gadal (גָּדַל, magnified, exalted) combined with al-YHWH (על־יְהוָה, against the LORD) identifies Moab's fundamental sin: not mere idolatry, but arrogant defiance of Yahweh Himself. Jeremiah 48:26-27 specifies that Moab mocked Israel and exulted in Judah's suffering, treating God's disciplinary judgment of His people as proof of His weakness. This is the pattern of hubris that brings divine judgment: Pharaoh (Exodus 5:2), Sennacherib (2 Kings 19:22-23), Nebuchadnezzar himself (Daniel 4:30), and Herod (Acts 12:21-23) all suffered for magnifying themselves against God.

Historical Context

After Nebuchadnezzar's invasion (c. 582 BC), Moab never regained independence. Subsequent Persian, Greek, and Roman administrations absorbed the territory into larger provinces. By the 4th century BC, Arab tribes (Nabateans) displaced remaining Moabites. The prophecy's fulfillment was complete—Moab ceased to exist as 'a people.' Yet Jeremiah 48:47 promises eventual restoration 'in the latter

days,' possibly referring to individuals of Moabite descent being incorporated into the messianic kingdom. Ruth the Moabitess, ancestress of David and Jesus, exemplifies this gracious inclusion. The principle stands: nations that defy God forfeit their existence, but individuals who turn to Him find mercy.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to 'magnify yourself against the LORD,' and how might nations or individuals do this today?
2. How does Moab's complete political destruction demonstrate that God takes personal affronts seriously?
3. What hope does Ruth's inclusion in Christ's genealogy offer despite Moab's national judgment?

Interlinear Text

עַל־כֵּן מִנְחָת מִן־עַמּוֹד
shall be destroyed And Moab from being a people H3588 H5921
H8045 H4124 H5971

וְהִנֵּה־עַל־כֵּן מִנְחָת מִן־עַמּוֹד
himself against the LORD because he hath magnified H1431
H3068

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 48:2 (Parallel theme): There shall be no more praise of Moab: in Heshbon they have devised evil against it; come, and let us cut it off from being a nation. Also thou shalt be cut down, O Madmen; the sword shall pursue thee.

Isaiah 37:23 (Parallel theme): Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 7:8 (Parallel theme): For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin; and within threescore and five years shall Ephraim be broken, that it be not a people.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org