

Jeremiah 48:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

In the going up of Luhith (בְּמַעַלָּה בְּלֹחִית) —ma'aleh refers to an ascending path or stairway, while Luhith (possibly meaning 'tablet-place') was a mountain ascent south of Horonaim. **Continual weeping shall go up** (בְּכִי יָעַלְהָ) —the Hebrew literally repeats 'weeping' for emphasis: 'with weeping, weeping goes up.' The repetition conveys unceasing, climbing grief.

Conversely, **in the going down of Horonaim** (בְּמַונֵּד חֹרְנִים) depicts descent accompanied by **a cry of destruction** (צַעֲקַת-שְׁבָר) (tza'aqat-shever). Whether climbing upward or descending downward, in every direction, only anguish awaits—no escape, no refuge. This geographic poetry of despair shows judgment pervading every path, every option exhausted.

Historical Context

The paired cities Luhith and Horonaim marked the southern escape route from Moab's plateau toward Edom. Refugees would climb Luhith's ascent hoping for safety, then descend Horonaim's path toward the Dead Sea. Jeremiah depicts both routes filled with weeping, suggesting complete military encirclement.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does the imagery of weeping 'going up' and 'going down' teach about the inescapability of consequences?
2. How does this geographical detail demonstrate that rebellion against God leads to dead ends in every direction?
3. Where in your life might you be seeking an escape route instead of repentance?

Interlinear Text

כִּי בְּכִי מֵעַל הַלְּחֵךְ וְתַּעֲלֵה
H3588 For in the going up of Luhith continual shall go up continual H3588
H4608 H3872 H1065 H5927 H1065

בְּמַוּן דָּמָר חֹרֵן יְמִינָה אֶל אֹשֶׁר אֶעֱקָת
for in the going down of Horonaim the enemies a cry of destruction
H4174 H2773 H6862 H6818 H7667

שָׁמַעוּ:

have heard

H8085

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.

