

# 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** (בְּמַעֲלָה הַלּוּחִית bema'aleh haLuhit)—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 יַעֲלֶה־ בְּכִי bevki ya'aleh-veki)—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** (בְּמוֹרָד חוֹרֹנַיִם bemorad Horonayim) depicts descent accompanied by **a cry of destruction** (צִעָקַת־שֹׁכֵר 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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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כִּי	מַעֲלָה	הַלֵּחַ	וְ	כִּי	יַעֲלֶה	וְ	כִּי	כִּי
H3588	<b>For in the going up</b>	<b>of Luhith</b>		<b>continual</b>	<b>shall go up</b>	<b>continual</b>		H3588
	H4608	H3872		H1065	H5927	H1065		
	בְּמוֹדֹד	חוֹרֹנַיִם	צָרֵי	צַעֲקָת	שֶׁ	בְּרָ		
	<b>for in the going down</b>	<b>of Horonaim</b>	<b>the enemies</b>	<b>a cry</b>	<b>of destruction</b>			
	H4174	H2773	H6862	H6818	H7667			
	שָׁמְעוּ:							
	<b>have heard</b>							
	H8085							

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

