

Jeremiah 49:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I have made Esau bare, I have uncovered his secret places, and he shall not be able to hide himself: his seed is spoiled, and his brethren, and his neighbours, and he is not.

Analysis

But I have made Esau bare, I have uncovered his secret places—God declares His direct action against Edom. Made bare translates chasapti (חָשַׁפְתִּי), meaning to strip, expose, or lay bare. Secret places (mistarim, מִשְׁתָּרִים) refers to hidden refuges, concealed treasures, or secure fortresses. Edom's rocky terrain provided natural fortresses and caves for hiding wealth and people, but God will expose everything. No geographical advantage can protect from divine judgment.

And he shall not be able to hide himself: his seed is spoiled—The Hebrew nechehas (נְחַשֵּׁשׁ, hide himself) emphasizes futile attempts at concealment. Seed is spoiled uses shuddad (שׁׁדָּד), meaning destroyed, ruined, or devastated. This indicates destruction of Edom's descendants—no future generation.

His brethren, and his neighbours, and he is not—The phrase ve'eynenu (וְאֵין־נוּ) he is not) echoes Genesis 5:24 (Enoch) and Psalm 37:36 (the wicked)—complete nonexistence. Edom's allies and neighbors will also perish. The emphatic finality portrays total extinction—a prophecy literally fulfilled as Edom vanished from history without trace.

Historical Context

Edom's geography seemed to guarantee security. The capital Sela (later Petra) was carved into rose-red cliffs, accessible only through narrow canyons—nearly

impregnable. Yet Nebuchadnezzar conquered it (c. 582 BC), and the Nabataeans later displaced the Edomites entirely. The phrase 'he is not' proved literal: unlike other nations that survived conquest, Edom ceased to exist as a people. No Edomite language, literature, or culture survived. This contrasts sharply with Israel, which endured exile, dispersion, and persecution yet remains identifiable. The permanence of Edom's destruction demonstrates that human security measures—geographical, military, or political—cannot thwart God's decreed judgment.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Edom's confidence in natural defenses parallel modern trust in security systems, wealth, or power?
2. What does the complete disappearance of Edom teach about God's sovereignty over history and nations?
3. In what ways does Israel's survival through exile contrasted with Edom's extinction demonstrate God's covenant faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה	גַּל	יִתְּהִ	עָשָׂה	אֶת	פָּשָׁתִי	אָנָּה	כִּי
H3588	H589	bare	H853	But I have made Esau	I have uncovered	H1540	H853
		H2834		H6215			
לֹא	יָכַל	לֹא	יָכַב	הַ	מִסְתָּבֵב	יְהִ	שָׁבֵד
his secret places	to hide	H3808	and he shall not be able	I have uncovered	is spoiled	H7703	
H4565	H2247		H3201				
וְיָרַע	וְיָשַׁכֵּן	וְיָאַחַד	וְיָשַׁכֵּן	וְיָאַחַד	וְיָרַע		
himself his seed	and his brethren	and his neighbours				H369	
H2233	H251		H7934				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 17:14 (Parallel theme): And behold at eveningtide trouble; and before the morning he is not. This is the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org