

Jeremiah 49:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent unto the heathen, saying, Gather ye together, and come against her, and rise up to the battle.

Analysis

I have heard a rumour from the LORD (שְׁמֻעָה שָׁמָעוּתִי, shemu'ah shamati)—Jeremiah receives divine intelligence about Edom's impending judgment. The tsir (צִיר, ambassador) sent among nations coordinates the coalition against Edom, showing God's sovereignty over international politics. This prophetic eavesdropping on heaven's war council echoes Isaiah's vision and demonstrates that no nation escapes Yahweh's judicial oversight.

Gather ye together, and come against her—The imperative forms signal God's active orchestration of judgment through human agency. Edom, Judah's blood relative through Esau, will face the same Babylonian sword they celebrated when Jerusalem fell (Obadiah 10-14). The bitter irony: Edom's schadenfreude becomes their own obituary.

Historical Context

This oracle against Edom (586-585 BC) follows Jerusalem's destruction. The Edomites had betrayed their Judahite kinsmen by assisting Babylon and plundering refugees. Nabonidus of Babylon would campaign against Edom circa 553 BC, fulfilling this prophecy.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's use of pagan nations to judge other pagan nations demonstrate His universal sovereignty?
2. What does Edom's betrayal of Judah reveal about the spiritual danger of rejoicing in others' calamities?
3. How does Jeremiah's access to divine 'intelligence' prefigure believers' access to God's revelation in Scripture?

Interlinear Text

אָצֵר יְהוָה מֵאָת שָׁמָעַ שָׁמֹועַ ה
a rumour I have heard H853 from the LORD and an ambassador H6735

עַל יְהִי וְאַתֶּן מִלְחָמָה
unto the heathen is sent saying Gather ye together and come H5921

לְמִלְחָמָה: וְאַתָּה
against her and rise up to the battle H6965 H4421

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 30:4 (Parallel theme): For his princes were at Zoan, and his ambassadors came to Hanes.