

Jeremiah 49:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the LORD, no man shall abide there, neither shall a son of man dwell in it.

Analysis

As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah (הַמַּהֲפֶקֶת סֶדֶם וְעִמּוֹרָה, k'mahpekat Sedom v'Amorah)—The comparison is devastating: Edom's judgment will be as total and irreversible as the paradigmatic divine catastrophe. The noun mahpekah (overthrow) denotes violent reversal, used throughout Scripture for supernatural destruction (Genesis 19:29, Amos 4:11).

No man shall abide there, neither shall a son of man dwell in it—The parallelism emphasizes absolute desolation. Unlike other judged nations that were later restored, Edom receives Sodom's fate: permanent uninhabitability. This severity reflects Edom's covenant treachery—they were Esau's descendants who sold birthright for stew and later sold out their brothers for plunder. Hebrews 12:16-17 warns against Esau's irreversible loss; Edom corporately embodies this cautionary tale.

Historical Context

Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19) stood in collective memory as the ultimate example of divine wrath. Archaeological evidence shows Edom's major cities were indeed abandoned and never substantially reinhabited after the 6th century BC, unlike other nations Babylon conquered.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why does Scripture invoke Sodom when describing ultimate judgment—what makes that destruction paradigmatic?
2. How does Edom's permanent desolation differ from God's restoration of Judah, and what does this reveal about covenant?
3. What does the 'son of man shall not dwell' formula teach about the relationship between human habitation and divine blessing?

Interlinear Text

כְּמִהְפֹּךְ ת	סֹדֹם	וְעִמֹּרָה	וּשְׁכֵנֶיהָ	אֲמַר			
As in the overthrow	of Sodom	and Gomorrah	and the neighbour	cities thereof saith			
H4114	H5467	H6017	H7934	H559			
יְהוָה	לֹא	יֵשֵׁב	שָׁם	אִישׁ	וְלֹא	יָגֹוֹר	בָּהּ
the LORD	H3808	shall abide	H8033	no man	H3808	dwell	H0
H3068		H3427		H376		H1481	
בֶּן	אָדָם:						
there neither shall a son	of man						
H1121	H120						

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 49:33 (Parallel theme): And Hazor shall be a dwelling for dragons, and a desolation for ever: there shall no man abide there, nor any son of man dwell in it.

Deuteronomy 29:23 (References Lord): And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath:

Jeremiah 50:40 (References Lord): As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the LORD; so shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein.

Amos 4:11 (References Lord): I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.

Zephaniah 2:9 (References Lord): Therefore as I live, saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah, even the breeding of nettles, and saltpits, and a perpetual desolation: the residue of my people shall spoil them, and the remnant of my people shall possess them.