

# Jeremiah 49:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will cause an alarm of war to be heard in Rabbah of the Ammonites; and it shall be a desolate heap, and her daughters shall be burned with fire: then shall Israel be heir unto them that were his heirs, saith the LORD.

## Analysis

**Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will cause an alarm of war to be heard in Rabbah of the Ammonites.** God announces judgment on Ammon with the prophetic formula 'the days come, saith the LORD' (hineh yamim ba'im ne'um-YHWH). The phrase 'alarm of war' translates teru'ah (תְּרוּעָה), a shout or blast—specifically the war cry or trumpet blast signaling battle. God Himself will cause this alarm to sound in Rabbah, Ammon's capital (modern Amman, Jordan), announcing their destruction.

**And it shall be a desolate heap** (tel shemamah, תֵּל שְׁמָמָה)—a 'tel' is an archaeological mound formed by successive destructions and rebuildings. Rabbah, once a fortified city, will become a ruin pile. **Her daughters shall be burned with fire** refers to the surrounding villages (Hebrew idiom: daughter-towns dependent on the mother-city). Complete devastation is prophesied.

The reversal is stunning: **then shall Israel be heir unto them that were his heirs, saith the LORD.** Ammon had occupied Israelite territory in Gad (verse 1), 'inheriting' what belonged to Israel. God promises to reverse this—Israel will repossess their land and even inherit Ammonite territory. This demonstrates the lex talionis (law of retaliation) principle: as Ammon did to Israel, so it will be done

to them. Romans 12:19 and Hebrews 10:30 echo this—vengeance belongs to God, who will repay.

## Historical Context

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Ammon descended from Lot's incestuous relationship with his daughter (Genesis 19:38). Throughout Israel's history, Ammon proved hostile—they hired Balaam to curse Israel (Deuteronomy 23:3-4), oppressed Israel during the judges period (Judges 10-11), and Hanun humiliated David's ambassadors (2 Samuel 10:1-5). When Babylon destroyed Judah (586 BC), Ammon gloated and seized Israelite territory (Ezekiel 25:3, 6; Zephaniah 2:8-9). Jeremiah 40:14 reveals Ammon's king conspired to assassinate Gedaliah, the Babylonian-appointed governor. Nebuchadnezzar invaded Ammon around 582 BC in his campaign against surrounding nations. Archaeological evidence shows destruction layers at Ammonite sites from this period. The Ammonites eventually merged with surrounding peoples and disappeared from history, while Israel survived exile and returned to their land.

## Related Passages

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

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's judgment on Ammon for seizing Israel's inheritance demonstrate His faithfulness to covenant promises?
2. What does the reversal—'Israel be heir unto them that were his heirs'—teach about God's justice and the ultimate futility of opposing His purposes?
3. In what ways do nations and individuals today 'inherit' what belongs to God's people, and how should we respond in light of God's sovereignty?

## Interlinear Text

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לְכָא	הַגָּה	יְמִים	בָּאִים	נָאָם	יְהֹוָה:
H3651	H2009	Therefore behold the days	come	saith	the LORD
		H3117	H935	H5002	H3068
לְאָלָל	בְּרַבְתָּה	בְּנֵי	עַמְּוִיל	תִּרְאֵעַת	
to be heard	in Rabbah	of the Ammonites	H5983	that I will cause an alarm	H8643
H8085	H413	H7237	H1121		
לְמַלְתָּם	לְקַיְמָה	שְׁמַתָּה	וּבְנָתָתִים		
of war	H1961	heap	and it shall be a desolate	and her daughters	
H4421		H8510	H8077	H1323	
בְּאָשָׁ	תִּצְּתָנָה	וְשָׁרָא	אַתָּה	אָמַר	
with fire	shall be burned	be heir	then shall Israel	H853	H559
H784	H3341	H3423	H3478	H3423	
וְרָשָׁה	וְרָשָׁה	וְרָשָׁה	בְּאָשָׁ	בְּאָשָׁ	
the LORD					
H3068					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 4:19** (Parallel theme): My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.

**Deuteronomy 3:11** (Parallel theme): For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants; behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? nine cubits was the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man.

**Ezekiel 21:20** (Parallel theme): Appoint a way, that the sword may come to Rabbath of the Ammonites, and to Judah in Jerusalem the defenced.

**Amos 1:14** (Parallel theme): But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour the palaces thereof, with shouting in the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind:

**2 Samuel 11:1** (References Israel): And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

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