

Jeremiah 49:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The earth is moved at the noise of their fall, at the cry the noise thereof was heard in the Red sea.

Analysis

The earth is moved at the noise of their fall (רָעֵשָׂה בְּאָרֶץ מִקְׁוֹל נִפְלָם, ra'ashah ha'aretz mikkol niflam)—The verb ra'ash describes seismic trembling, suggesting Edom's collapse has cosmic significance. This hyperbolic language elevates judgment to apocalyptic proportions, indicating that individual nations' fates reveal universal principles of divine justice.

At the cry the noise thereof was heard in the Red sea (בְּיַם-סֻף נִשְׁמָע לְלֹוי, b'yam-suf nishma qolo)—The shriek of Edom's death agony echoes to the Red Sea (Gulf of Aqaba), the southern boundary of Edomite territory. This geographic detail roots the prophecy in Edom's actual domain while suggesting their cry is heard in the very waters where God drowned Pharaoh's army—a typological connection implying Edom faces exodus-style destruction for opposing God's people.

Historical Context

Edom's territory extended to the Gulf of Aqaba (Yam Suf), where they controlled the port of Ezion-geber. This strategic location provided wealth through maritime trade with Arabia and East Africa. The Red Sea reference also evokes Israel's deliverance—God who saved Israel will now judge Edom.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Why does Scripture use cosmic imagery (earth shaking) to describe national judgments?
2. How does the Red Sea reference connect Edom's judgment to the Exodus and God's covenant faithfulness?
3. What does the 'noise' and 'cry' language suggest about the human cost of divine judgment?

Interlinear Text

קֹלָה:	וְנַפְלֵה	בְּנַפְלֵה	בְּרָעֵשׁ	הַאֲרָזָה	בְּאַזְעָקָה	בְּיָם	בְּיָם
at the noise	of their fall	is moved	The earth	at the cry	sea	in the Red	
H6963	H5307	H7493	H776	H6818	H3220	H5488	

קֹלָה:	נִשְׁמַע	עַ
thereof was heard	at the noise	
H8085	H6963	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 50:46 (Parallel theme): At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth is moved, and the cry is heard among the nations.
