

Jeremiah 49:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How is the city of praise not left, the city of my joy!

Analysis

How is the city of praise not left (איך לא-עָזָבָה עִיר תְּהִלָּה, eikh lo-uzzevah ir tehillah)—This exclamation expresses shock that Damascus, the celebrated city (ir tehillah, 'city of praise/renown'), faces destruction. Some interpret this as lament from Damascus's citizens, others as sarcastic divine question: 'Why hasn't this supposedly great city been spared?' The irony is thick—renown provides no immunity from judgment.

The city of my joy (קִרְיַת מְשׁוֹשִׁי, qiryat mesosi)—If spoken by Syrians, this reflects their pride in Damascus. If spoken by God ironically, it mocks their false confidence. Damascus's ancient glory, commercial prosperity, and cultural achievements cannot avert divine sentence. Earthly acclaim means nothing at God's bar; only covenant faithfulness matters. The rhetorical question format invites hearers to ponder: What makes a city worth preserving? Not human praise but divine pleasure.

Historical Context

Damascus boasted millennia of history, appearing in Genesis 14:15. Its gardens, fed by the Abana and Pharpar rivers, were legendary (2 Kings 5:12). Greek and Roman writers praised Damascus's beauty. Yet none of this cultural capital could buy reprieve from God's judgment.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Why does human praise and renown fail to secure a city or nation against divine judgment?
2. What does this verse teach about the difference between human valuation and divine evaluation?
3. How might Christians wrongly trust in cultural achievements or historical pedigree rather than covenant faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

מִשְׁוָשִׁי: קָרַב תְּתַהַל הַעֲזֵב הַעֲזֵב יְרֵא לֹא אֵין
H349 H3808 not left How is the city of praise the city of my joy
H5800 H5892 H8416 H7151 H4885

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 33:9 (Resurrection): And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

Jeremiah 51:41 (Resurrection): How is Sheshach taken! and how is the praise of the whole earth surprised! how is Babylon become an astonishment among the nations!

