

Jeremiah 49:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall consume the palaces of Ben-hadad.

Analysis

And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus (וְהִצַּתִּי אֶת־הַחֹמֹתַי בְּשָׁרִי, v'hitsatti esh b'chomat Dammeseq)—God personally ignites (yatsath, kindle/set ablaze) Damascus's fortifications. Fire is God's signature judgment weapon, purifying and consuming (Deuteronomy 4:24, Hebrews 12:29). The walls, representing military security and civic pride, will burn.

And it shall consume the palaces of Ben-hadad (וְאָכְלָה אֶת־חֲמֻנֹת בֶּן־חֲדָד, v'akhlah armonot Ben-Hadad)—The verb akal (consume/devour) suggests total destruction. Ben-hadad was the dynastic name/title of Damascus's kings (1 Kings 15:18, 20:1). Their citadels and royal estates will be fuel for God's fire. This formula parallels Amos 1:4, confirming the prophetic tradition of Syria's judgment. What human hands built, divine fire unmakes—a sobering reminder that all cultural achievements are subject to their Maker's appraisal.

Historical Context

The Ben-hadad dynasty ruled Damascus during the 9th-8th centuries BC. By Jeremiah's time, Syria was a Babylonian vassal. The 'palaces of Ben-hadad' became a stock phrase for Damascus's royal establishment, even after that dynasty ended—emphasizing the continuity of pride and consequent judgment.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Why is fire the characteristic metaphor for divine judgment throughout Scripture?
2. What does God's personal agency ('I will kindle') teach about His active involvement in historical judgments?
3. How should the burning of 'palaces' inform Christian perspectives on wealth, power, and architectural monuments?

Interlinear Text

וְהִצַּתִּי	אֵשׁ	בְּחוֹמַת	דָּמָשְׁקִי	וְאָכְלָהּ	אֶרְמֹנֹתַי
And I will kindle	a fire	in the wall	of Damascus	and it shall consume	the palaces
H3341	H784	H2346	H1834	H398	H759
בְּנֵי	בְּהַדָּד				
H0	of Benhadad				
	H1130				

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