

Jeremiah 49:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Concerning Kedar, and concerning the kingdoms of Hazor, which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon shall smite, thus saith the LORD; Arise ye, go up to Kedar, and spoil the men of the east.

Analysis

Concerning Kedar, and concerning the kingdoms of Hazor (לְקֶדָר וּלְמַמְלָכוֹת) (Qedar ul'mamlkhot Chatzor)—Jeremiah shifts to Arabian kingdoms. Kedar, descended from Ishmael (Genesis 25:13), represented Bedouin tribes renowned for black tents, flocks, and archery (Isaiah 21:16-17). Hazor here isn't the Canaanite city but refers to unwalled settlements (chatserim) of semi-nomadic Arabs. **Which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon shall smite**—God names His instrument before the blow falls.

Thus saith the LORD; Arise ye, go up to Kedar, and spoil the men of the east (וְשַׁדְדוּ אֶת־בְּנֵי־קֶדֶם, qumu alu el-Qedar v'shaddu et-b'nei-Qedem)—Divine imperatives dispatch Babylon to plunder Arabia. 'Men of the east' (b'nei-Qedem) were proverbial for wealth and wisdom (Job 1:3). Yet God decrees their 'spoiling' (shadad), the same violent despoiling Israel experienced. No people group—settled urbanites or desert nomads—escapes divine jurisdiction.

Historical Context

Nebuchadnezzar campaigned in Arabia circa 599-598 BC, attacking caravan tribes. This disrupted trade routes and demonstrated Babylon's reach into previously

untouched desert regions. Kedarite inscriptions from this period reference conflicts with foreign powers, likely including Babylon.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Why does God judge even nomadic Arabian tribes who weren't involved in Israel's affairs?
2. What does Nebuchadnezzar's naming as God's agent reveal about divine sovereignty over pagan kings?
3. How does this oracle challenge the notion that geographic isolation provides safety from God's justice?

Interlinear Text

קִדְרָה	וְלַמְּמַלְכֹת	חָצַר	אֲשֶׁר	הָהֵא		
Concerning Kedar	and concerning the kingdoms	of Hazor	H834	shall smite		
H6938	H4467	H2674		H5221		
וְנְבוּכַדְרֶאצַּר	מֶלֶךְ	בָּבֶל	כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	קוּמ
which Nebuchadrezzar	king	of Babylon	H3541	thus saith	the LORD	Arise
H5019	H4428	H894		H559	H3068	H6965
עֲלֵה	אֶל	קִדְרָה	וְשָׁדְדוּ	אֹתָם	בְּנֵי	קִדְמֹה
ye go up	H413	Concerning Kedar	and spoil	H853	the men	of the east
H5927		H6938	H7703		H1121	H6924

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 11:14 (Parallel theme): But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.

Genesis 25:13 (Parallel theme): And these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: the firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; and Kedar, and Adbeel, and Mibsam,

Judges 6:3 (Parallel theme): And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them;

Jeremiah 2:10 (Parallel theme): For pass over the isles of Chittim, and see; and send unto Kedar, and consider diligently, and see if there be such a thing.

Jeremiah 49:14 (Resurrection): I have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent unto the heathen, saying, Gather ye together, and come against her, and rise up to the battle.

Ezekiel 27:21 (Parallel theme): Arabia, and all the princes of Kedar, they occupied with thee in lambs, and rams, and goats: in these were they thy merchants.