

Jeremiah 49:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will set my throne in Elam, and will destroy from thence the king and the princes, saith the LORD.

Analysis

And I will set my throne in Elam (וְשִׁמְתִּי כְּסָא בְּעֵילָם v'samtii khis'i b'Elam)—Stunning imagery: God establishes His judicial/royal throne in Elam's territory. This echoes Ancient Near Eastern conquest ideology where victorious kings 'set their throne' in defeated capitals, but here the King is Yahweh Himself. God's throne symbolizes His sovereign rule and judicial authority—Elam will be directly governed by divine decree.

And will destroy from thence the king and the princes (וְמַבְדִּיל מֶשֶׁם מֶלֶךְ וְשָׁרִים v'ha'avadti missham melekh v'sarim)—Total governmental decapitation. The ruling class will be eliminated (abad, destroyed/perish). This fulfilled when Persian conquest ended Elamite political autonomy—no more independent Elamite kings. Yet the throne imagery also anticipates Christ's universal reign: one day God's throne will indeed govern all nations (Revelation 21:24-26). Elam's subjugation prefigures ultimate submission of all earthly powers to heaven's King.

Historical Context

After Cyrus conquered Elam/Persia (c. 550 BC), Elam lost independent monarchy and became a Persian satrapy. The royal line ended, fulfilling the destruction of 'king and princes.' Yet Elamites continued as a people group, awaiting the restoration promised in v. 39.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does God 'setting His throne' in a pagan nation teach about His universal sovereignty?
2. How does the destruction of earthly kings prefigure the ultimate reign of Christ over all nations?
3. In what ways do earthly governments acknowledge (or resist) God's enthroned authority over them?

Interlinear Text

מְלֹךְ מִשְׁמָרָתִי יְשִׁמְתָּה
And I will set my throne in Elam and will destroy
H7760 H3678 H5867 H6 H8033 H4428

וְשָׁרֵם נָאָם יְהִי
and the princes saith the LORD
H8269 H5002 H3068

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