

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 כִסְאִי בְעֵילָם, 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 (וְהָאֲבָדְתִּי מִשָּׁם מֶלֶךְ וְשָׂרִים, v'ha'avadti missham melek 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

וְשִׁמֹּתִי י	כִּסֵּאִי י	בְּעִילָם	וְהָאֲבִדְתִּי י	מִשָּׁם	מִלָּה
And I will set	my throne	in Elam	and will destroy	H8033	from thence the king
H7760	H3678	H5867	H6		H4428
וְשָׂרֵי ים	נֹאֲמִים	יְהוָה:			
and the princes	saith	the LORD			
H8269	H5002	H3068			