

# Jeremiah 49:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If grapegatherers come to thee, would they not leave some gleanings grapes? if thieves by night, they will destroy till they have enough.

## Analysis

**If grapegatherers come to thee, would they not leave some gleanings grapes?** This rhetorical question uses agricultural imagery to emphasize the totality of Edom's coming destruction. Normal grape harvesters (botserim, בּצְרִים) leave gleanings ('olelot, עֲלֵלֹת)—the remnant grapes for the poor (Leviticus 19:10, Deuteronomy 24:21). Even thieves take only what they need and can carry. But Edom's judgment will be complete—no remnant, no survivors, no recovery.

**If thieves by night, they will destroy till they have enough.** The Hebrew shavitu (שָׁבִיתוּ) means to ruin or destroy, while dayyam (דָּיָם, enough) indicates thieves stop when satisfied. The contrast is stark: human plunderers show restraint; divine judgment is thorough. This echoes Obadiah 5, which uses nearly identical language in prophesying Edom's destruction.

The imagery teaches that God's judgment, when fully executed, surpasses human devastation. While invaders leave survivors to rebuild, God's decreed judgment on Edom would be final. This didn't mean immediate genocide but the nation's eventual, complete disappearance from history—a fate that materialized over subsequent centuries.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern warfare typically left some population to work the land and pay tribute. The gleaning laws in Israel's Torah ensured provision for the vulnerable. But Edom's judgment would exceed normal conquest patterns. After Nebuchadnezzar's campaigns, the Nabataeans displaced the Edomites, who migrated into southern Judea (becoming 'Idumeans'). By the Roman period, Edom as a distinct nation had vanished. The Herodian dynasty (Idumean converts to Judaism) represented Edom's final appearance in biblical history, ending with Jerusalem's destruction in 70 AD. Unlike Israel, which survived exile with preserved identity, Edom disappeared completely—fulfilling the imagery of total devastation without remnant.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What does the completeness of God's judgment on Edom teach about the seriousness of persistent rebellion and pride?
2. How does this passage challenge assumptions that God's judgment will always leave room for recovery or second chances?
3. In what ways does Edom's total disappearance from history validate the reliability of prophetic Scripture?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשָׁא רֹא אֶם  
H3808 to thee would they not leave  
לֹא לְנָבָא אָם בְּאַרְיִם  
H1219 If grapegatherers come H935

הַשְׁחָחַ יְתּוּ בְּלִילָה עֹזֶל וְתָ  
H7843 they will destroy H3915 by night H1590 if thieves H518 some gleanings grapes  
H5955

תָּמָם:

till they have enough

H1767

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