

Jeremiah 50:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, a people shall come from the north, and a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.

Analysis

Behold, a people shall come from the north (הִנֵּה עַם מֵאַמֵּסָפוֹן) —The 'foe from the north' motif used for Babylon attacking Jerusalem (1:14-15, 4:6, 6:1) is now inverted: a northern coalition attacks Babylon. **And a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth** (וְגֹוי גָּדוֹל וְמֶלֶכִים נֶבֶים יָעוּרָו מִרְקָטִי-אָרָץ) —The Medo-Persian empire under Cyrus indeed represented a coalition: Medes, Persians, and subject peoples from earth's 'coasts' (remote regions).

The verb ur (to rouse, awaken) indicates God's agency—He stirs up Babylon's conquerors. This echoes Isaiah 13:17 ('I will stir up the Medes against them'). History's actors think they move autonomously; Scripture reveals God's hand orchestrating their steps. Cyrus didn't know he fulfilled prophecy (Isaiah 45:4), yet God directed every decision. This truth should comfort God's people: our enemies are on His leash.

Historical Context

Cyrus the Persian formed alliance with Medes (Astyages's kingdom) and conquered Lydia (546 BC), creating the vast Persian Empire. His coalition included diverse peoples: Elamites, Babylonians (rebels), Greeks (Ionian mercenaries). This multinational force fulfilled the 'many kings' prophecy against Babylon.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the reversal of the 'foe from the north' demonstrate God's poetic justice in judgment?
2. What does God 'raising up' pagan kings reveal about His sovereignty over international politics?
3. How should Christians respond when God uses ungodly powers to discipline other ungodly powers?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּה	עַם	בָּאָ	מִצְפָּה	גָּדוֹל
H2009	Behold a people	shall come	from the north	and a great
	H5971	H935	H6828	H1471
אֶרְזָה	מִרְכָּתִי	יָעַרְ	רַבְּ יָמִ	עַמְּלָכִים
kings	and many	shall be raised up	from the coasts	of the earth
H4428	H7227	H5782	H3411	H776

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 50:9 (Resurrection): For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows shall be as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain.

