

Jeremiah 8:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The snorting of his horses was heard from Dan: the whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones; for they are come, and have devoured the land, and all that is in it; the city, and those that dwell therein.

Analysis

This verse describes the approaching enemy: 'The snorting of his horses was heard from Dan.' Dan, at Israel's northern border, would first detect invaders approaching via the Fertile Crescent trade route. 'Snorting' (nachrah, נָחַרָה) evokes powerful war horses, their breath and sounds preceding visible approach. 'The whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones' uses abirim (אַבִּירִים, mighty ones, stallions), emphasizing military power. The psychological impact of hearing an approaching army created terror before the battle began. 'For they are come, and have devoured the land, and all that is in it; the city, and those that dwell therein'—the destruction is already certain, described in prophetic perfect tense as if completed.

Historical Context

Dan's location at the foot of Mount Hermon made it the traditional boundary of Israel ('from Dan to Beersheba'). Invading armies from Mesopotamia would enter Canaan through this northern corridor. The Babylonian army included significant cavalry forces, and the sound of approaching horses struck terror. Archaeological evidence of Babylonian military technology and strategy confirms their reliance on combined infantry, cavalry, and siege warfare.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty of coming judgment described in prophetic perfect tense challenge complacency about sin's consequences?
2. What 'sounds from Dan' might signal approaching spiritual danger in our lives?

Interlinear Text

מִדָּן	נִשְׁמָע	נִחָרַת	סוֹס יוֹ	מִקּוֹל	מִצְהָל וְתֵּ
from Dan	was heard	The snorting	of his horses	at the sound	of the neighing
H1835	H8085	H5170	H5483	H6963	H4684
אֲבִיר יוֹ	רָעַשׁ הָ	כָּל	אֶרֶץ	וָיָב וָאוֹ	וַיֹּאכְלוּ
of his strong ones	trembled	H3605	the land	for they are come	and have devoured
H47	H7493		H776	H935	H398
אֶרֶץ	וּמְלֹאָה הָ	עִיר	וְשָׁבִי	בָּהּ:	
the land	and all	that is in it the city	and those that dwell		H0
H776	H4393	H5892	H3427		

Additional Cross-References

Judges 5:22 (Parallel theme): Then were the horsehoofs broken by the means of the pransings, the pransings of their mighty ones.

Judges 18:29 (Parallel theme): And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born unto Israel: howbeit the name of the city was Laish at the first.

1 Corinthians 10:28 (Parallel theme): But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake: for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof:

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