

Lamentations 4:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, that dwellest in the land of Uz; the cup also shall pass through unto thee: thou shalt be drunken, and shalt make thyself naked.

Analysis

Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom (שִׁשִּׁי וְשִׁמְחִי בַּת-אֱדוֹם, sisi vesimchi bat-Edom)—This is biting irony, even sarcasm. Edom rejoiced at Jerusalem's fall (Psalm 137:7; Obadiah 1:12), but their celebration is premature. **The cup also shall pass through unto thee** (גַם-עַלְיכָה תַּעֲבֹר-קוֹס, gam-alayikh ta'avor-kos)—'the cup' refers to God's wrath (Isaiah 51:17; Jeremiah 25:15-29). Edom's turn is coming. **Thou shalt be drunken, and shalt make thyself naked** (תִּשְׁכְּרִי וְתִתְעַרֵּי, tishkeri vettit'ari)—imagery of judgment-induced shame. Edom's gloating over Israel's humiliation will be repaid in kind. This prophetic irony vindicates divine justice.

Historical Context

Edom, descended from Esau (Jacob's brother), harbored ancestral hatred toward Israel. When Babylon besieged Jerusalem, Edom aided the enemy, plundered refugees, and celebrated the city's fall. Obadiah and Psalm 137 detail their treachery. Edom was later conquered by Nabateans (4th century BC) and eventually disappeared as a people—the 'cup' passed to them indeed.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Have you ever celebrated another's downfall, only to later experience similar judgment yourself? What does this teach about schadenfreude?
2. How does this prophetic irony demonstrate that God will vindicate His people even when their discipline seems to give enemies grounds for mockery?

Interlinear Text

וְרֹאשֵׁךְ שְׁמַחַי בָּתְּךָ אֶדְםָ יֹשֵׁבְתִּי בָּאָרֶץ עַזְּכָרִי
Rejoice and be glad O daughter of Edom that dwellest in the land of Uz
H7797 H8055 H1323 H123 H3427 H776 H5780

גַּם עַל יְמֵינֶךָ תִּשְׁכַּח כִּי תִּסְתַּבְּךְ תְּסַבֵּב
H1571 H5921 also shall pass the cup through unto thee thou shalt be drunken
H5674 H3563 H7937

וְתִתְעַרֵּי
and shalt make thyself naked
H6168

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 16:15 (Parallel theme): Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Job 1:1 (Parallel theme): There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

Amos 1:11 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he did

pursue his brother with the sword, and did cast off all pity, and his anger did tear perpetually, and he kept his wrath for ever:

Psalms 137:7 (Parallel theme): Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof.

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