

## A Prophecy Against Dumah and Arabia Yesha'yahu 21:11-17

In my last post, we learned of **Another Prophecy Against the Desert by the Sea (Bavel)** in **Yesha'yahu 21:1-10**. In this post, we learn of **A Prophecy Against Dumah and Arabia** in **Yesha'yahu 21:11-17**.

***<sup>11</sup> A prophecy about Dumah: Someone is calling to me from Se'ir: "Watchman, how much longer is it night? Watchman, how much longer is it night?"<sup>12</sup> The watchman answers: "Morning is coming, but also the night. If you want to ask, ask! Come back again!"***

**Dumah** is an oasis town in north-central Saudi Arabia near the southern end of the **Wadi Sirhan**. Its association with the Kedarite confederacy of Bedouin tribes of that region (Genesis 25:13) may explain the place name's tie to **Edom**. There may also be a pun expressed here in the Hebrew of this word (*duma*), which means "silence," and **Edom**.

Some people may ask in our day, *Watchman, how much longer is it night?* We are to be the **watchmen**, for **Yeshua** said we are to watch for His coming (Matthew 24:42). If we believed **Yeshua** could come back today, there would be no more negative talk, no more gossip, slander, or innuendo among us. That is why John tells us that whoever has the hope of **Yeshua** coming purifies himself (1 John 3:3).

As an introduction to our next passage, **D'dan**, **Teima**, and **Kedar** are references to geographical and political entities in northern **Arabia**. They were likely allies of **Bavel** during the eighth century BCE. These tribes were defeated by **Ashurim** between 691-689 BCE.

***<sup>13</sup> A prophecy about Arabia: You caravans of D'danim will camp in the desert growth of Arabia.<sup>14</sup> Bring water to the thirsty, you who live in Teima, greet the fugitives with food;***

Comprising territories claimed by various **Bedouin** tribal groups, **Arabia** was an area that **Ashurim** kings listed as a part of their empire but never truly controlled. The **Arab** tribes occupied the region between the southern **Negev** and the north-central portion of the **Arabian Peninsula**. The **D'danim** tribes used northwest **Arabia** as their base of operations. They operated as caravaners with contacts in **Syria**, **Phoenicia**, and **Palestine**. **Teima** has long been identified with the oasis city of **Tayma**, located on the western border of the **North Arabian Desert**. It lies at the crossroads of three major trade routes of the "incense road" from **South Arabia** to **Syria**, Mesopotamia and eastern **Arabia**.<sup>1</sup>

***<sup>15</sup> because they are fleeing the sword, the drawn sword, the bent bow and the press of battle.<sup>16</sup> For this is what Adonai has told me: "Within a year [and not a day more], as if a hired worker were keeping track of the time, the glory of Kedar will come to an end.***

Tied to the **Ishmaelites** in Genesis 25:13, the **Kedarim** functioned as sheep breeders and caravaners at least as late as the **Hellenistic** period. There is clear evidence of ties between **Kedar** and **Tema** in **Bavlim** economic texts.

***<sup>17</sup> Few of Kedar's valiant archers will be left." Adonai, the God of Isra'el, has spoken.*** ~ Isaiah 21:11-17 (CJB)

In essence, this prophecy says that within one year, **Arabia** would be destroyed. Indeed, exactly one year from the time it was given, in the year 716 BCE, **Sargon**, the **Ashurim** took control of **Arabia**.

In my next post, we will explore in **A Prophecy Against the Valley of Vision ~ Part 1** in **Yesha'yahu 22**.

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<sup>1</sup> The IVP Bible Background Commentary – Old Testament.