

Amos 5:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name is The God of hosts.

Analysis

Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus (וְהִגְלִיתִי אֶתְכֶם) v'higleiti etchem mehale'ah l'Damaseq)—The judgment fits the crime: they carried idols, so God will cause them to be carried away (הִגְלִיתִי, 'I will exile'). **Beyond Damascus** means further than Syria—fulfilled when Assyria (whose capital Nineveh lay northeast of Damascus) deported Israel in 722 BC. **Saith the LORD, whose name is The God of hosts** (אמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים צְבָאֹת שְׁמוֹ) amar YHWH Elohei-tzva'ot sh'mo)—the covenant God who commands heavenly armies pronounces this irrevocable decree.

This is measure-for-measure justice: they wanted other gods, so God removes them from the promised land given specifically for worshiping Him alone. Exile is the covenant curse for idolatry (Deuteronomy 28:36, 64-68). Yet even in judgment, God maintains covenant faithfulness—He warned them repeatedly before acting.

Historical Context

The Assyrian conquest of 722 BC fulfilled this precisely. Sargon II deported Israelites to Mesopotamia and Media (2 Kings 17:6)—regions 'beyond Damascus.' The ten northern tribes never returned as a nation, becoming the 'lost tribes.' This demonstrates God's faithfulness to His word, even in judgment.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does exile function as both punishment and mercy—removing people from covenant blessings they despised?
2. What modern forms of 'exile' might God use to discipline His people when they pursue idols?
3. How should the certainty of God's judgment encourage Christians to take warnings seriously rather than presuming on grace?

Interlinear Text

וְהַגְּלִיתִי	לְדִמְשָׁךְ
Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity	beyond
H1540	H853
רְאֵם רְאֵם יְהִי אֱלֹהִי אֶבְאָה וְתַּשְׁחִזְךָ	Damascus
saith the LORD is The God of hosts whose name	H1834
H559 H3068 H430 H6635 H8034	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 7:43 (References God): Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.

2 Kings 17:6 (Parallel theme): In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

Amos 4:13 (References God): For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name.

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