

Deuteronomy 28:62

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God.

Analysis

And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude—this directly reverses God's Abrahamic promise (Genesis 15:5, 22:17). The Hebrew *wəniš'artem bimtē mə'āt* (בָּמְתֵי מִצְעָד, 'you shall be left as men of fewness') contrasts painfully with **as the stars of heaven** (כְּכֹוכְבֵי הָשָׁמָיִם), the very language of God's covenant promise.

This predicts genocide and population collapse. From Solomon's empire of millions, Israel shrank to a remnant under Babylon, then further under Rome. By AD 135 (after Bar Kokhba's revolt), Judea was nearly depopulated. The phrase **because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD** gives the reason: disobedience inverts blessing to curse. Paul references this in Romans 9:27—even the remnant is saved only by grace.

Historical Context

Archaeological surveys show dramatic population decline after 586 BC—Judah's population dropped from ~250,000 to ~40,000. After AD 70, the Jewish population in Judea dropped by 80%. After the Bar Kokhba revolt (AD 135), Judea was renamed 'Syria Palaestina' to erase Jewish identity. The Holocaust reduced world Jewry by 40%.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How can God's promises be both certain and conditional?
2. What does this passage teach about corporate versus individual election?
3. How does the preservation of a remnant demonstrate both judgment and mercy?

Interlinear Text

וְנִשְׁאַרְתֶּם	in number	מִתְּמִתָּה	תִּתְחַת	מִצְטָה	אֲשֶׁר	הִיִּתְמַמֵּת
And ye shall be left	in number	few	H8478	whereas	H1961	
H7604	H4962	H4592		H834		
בְּכָכָבָרִים	of heaven	לְרַבְּשָׁם	לְרַבְּ	כִּי	לֹא	אַלְפִּים:
ye were as the stars	of heaven	for multitude	H3588	H3808		
H3556	H8064	H7230				
שְׁמַע עַתָּה	the voice	בְּקָרְבָּהּ	בְּקָרְבָּהּ	הִתְהִיבָּהּ	אַלְפִּים:	
because thou wouldest not obey	the voice	of the LORD	H3068	thy God	H430	
H8085	H6963					

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 9:23 (Parallel theme): Their children also multipliedst thou as the stars of heaven, and broughtest them into the land, concerning which thou hadst promised to their fathers, that they should go in to possess it.

Deuteronomy 4:27 (References Lord): And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you.

Deuteronomy 10:22 (References God): Thy fathers went down into Egypt with threescore and ten persons; and now the LORD thy God hath made thee as the stars of heaven for multitude.

Isaiah 24:6 (Parallel theme): Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.

Jeremiah 42:2 (References God): And said unto Jeremiah the prophet, Let, we beseech thee, our supplication be accepted before thee, and pray for us unto the LORD thy God, even for all this remnant; (for we are left but a few of many, as thine eyes do behold us:)

Nehemiah 7:4 (Parallel theme): Now the city was large and great: but the people were few therein, and the houses were not builded.

Mark 13:20 (References Lord): And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

2 Kings 24:14 (Parallel theme): And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land.