

Deuteronomy 29:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So that the generation to come of your children that shall rise up after you, and the stranger that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses which the LORD hath laid upon it;

Analysis

So that the generation to come of your children that shall rise up after you, and the stranger that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land (וְאָמַר הַדּוֹר הָאַחֲרֹן)—Moses shifts from individual apostate (vv. 19-21) to corporate national consequences visible to dor acharon ("latter generation") and nokhri ("foreigner" from eretz rechokah, "distant land"). The covenant curses will be so catastrophic that future Israelites and foreign observers will interrogate the devastation.

The phrase makkot ha-aretz ("plagues of that land") and tachalue'ha ("sicknesses/diseases") uses Egypt-exodus language. The land itself contracts disease—ecological judgment mirroring the plagues that judged Egypt. This reversal is programmatic: Israel, redeemed from Egypt's plagues, now suffers Egyptian-style judgment in their own land.

The pedagogical aspect is striking—covenant violation creates such visible ruin that it provokes historical inquiry. The devastated land becomes an object lesson, teaching subsequent generations through negative example. This anticipates Jeremiah's and Ezekiel's explanations of Jerusalem's fall to confused exiles.

Historical Context

This prophecy materialized in 586 BCE when Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and exiled Judah. Lamentations records survivors' shock; Jeremiah 22:8-9 and 1 Kings 9:8-9 echo this very passage, with nations asking why Yahweh devastated his own land. Archaeological evidence from the Babylonian period shows widespread destruction and depopulation in Judah. Foreign chronicles (Babylonian, Egyptian) documented Jerusalem's fall, fulfilling the prediction that distant nations would witness and question Israel's judgment.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God use historical judgments as teaching tools for future generations?
2. What responsibility do we have to explain God's past judgments to those who question them?

Interlinear Text

וְאָמַר	כִּדּוֹר	בָּאֲחֵר וְ	בְּנֵיכֶם	אֲשֶׁר	
shall say	So that the generation	to come	of your children		
H559	H1755	H314	H1121	H834	
יָקוּמׁוּ	אַחֲרָיו	וְהַזָּכֵר י	אֲשֶׁר	יָבֹא	
that shall rise up	after	you and the stranger		that shall come	
H6965	H310	H5237	H834	H935	
הָאֶרֶץ	רְחוֹקָה	וְכֵן	אֶת	מִכּוֹת	הָאֶרֶץ
land	from a far	when they see		the plagues	land
H776	H7350	H7200	H853	H4347	H776
וְאֵת	כָּל־חֲלָאֵי יָהּ	אֲשֶׁר	חָלָה	יְהוָה	בָּהּ:
H853	and the sicknesses		hath laid	which the LORD	
	H8463	H834	H2470	H3068	H0

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 19:8 (Parallel theme): And I will make this city desolate, and an hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished and hiss because of all the plagues thereof.