

Deuteronomy 29:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, to bring upon it all the curses that are written in this book:

Analysis

And the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, to bring upon it all the curses that are written in this book—the Hebrew charah 'af YHWH ("the anger of the LORD burned") uses visceral language for God's judicial response to covenant violation. Qelalah ("curses") refers back to the covenant sanctions in Deuteronomy 28:15-68, not arbitrary divine wrath but covenantal consequences Israel agreed to at Sinai and Moab.

The phrase **written in this book** establishes the written Torah as binding covenant document. Unlike ancient Near Eastern treaties where kings could arbitrarily punish vassals, Israel's judgment came through stipulated, publically known sanctions. The exile (fulfilled in 722 BC for the Northern Kingdom, 586 BC for Judah) wasn't divine caprice but the execution of treaty curses for breaking brit (covenant). This demonstrates God's justice and faithfulness—He keeps His word in both blessing and judgment.

Historical Context

Written circa 1406 BC but prophetically describing the Babylonian exile 800 years later. Deuteronomy 29-30 constitutes the Palestinian Covenant, addressing Israel's future in the land. Moses speaks in the plains of Moab to the second generation, warning them of consequences their children and grandchildren would experience. The "anger kindled" language parallels ancient Near Eastern suzerain-vassal treaties where covenant breaking triggered military invasion and deportation.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's judgments as covenant consequences (not arbitrary punishment) shape your view of divine justice?
2. What 'written warnings' in Scripture do you need to take more seriously in your own life?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּחַר	אֵף	יְהוָה	בְּאֶרֶץ	וְהָיָה	לְבָרֵךְ יֵא
was kindled	And the anger	of the LORD	against this land		to bring
H2734	H639	H3068	H776	H1931	H935
עַל יְהוָה	אֶת	כָּל	הַקְלָלָה	הַכְּתוּבָה	בְּסֵפֶר
H5921	H853	H3605	upon it all the curses	that are written	in this book
		H7045		H3789	H5612
					H2088