

Ezekiel 12:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will scatter toward every wind all that are about him to help him, and all his bands; and I will draw out the sword after them.

Analysis

God continues describing judgment: 'And I will scatter toward every wind all that are about him to help him, and all his bands; and I will draw out the sword after them.' This announces the dispersion of Zedekiah's supporters and military forces. 'Scatter toward every wind' indicates comprehensive dispersion in all directions—total breakdown of organized resistance and community.

The phrase 'I will draw out the sword after them' emphasizes divine agency in military defeat. God personally pursues them with the sword (Babylon's armies). This isn't merely natural military outcome but divine judgment actively executed. God's covenant curses (Leviticus 26:33, Deuteronomy 28:64-65) threatened scattering among nations—now being fulfilled because of persistent covenant violation.

From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates God's absolute sovereignty even over military defeats and national dissolutions. The Neo-Babylonian Empire thinks it acts from imperial ambition, but God directs events to accomplish covenant purposes. Even enemy armies serve as instruments of divine judgment (Isaiah 10:5-15). This demonstrates providence—God governs all things, including seemingly secular historical events, to accomplish His redemptive purposes.

Historical Context

The scattering 'toward every wind' (all four directions) was literally fulfilled. After Jerusalem's fall, Judeans fled to Egypt (2 Kings 25:26, Jeremiah 43:4-7), were deported to Babylon, and scattered throughout the Babylonian Empire. Some may have fled to Edom, Moab, and Ammon. Jewish Diaspora began in earnest during this period, with communities establishing throughout the ancient Near East.

This dispersion, though judgment, also accomplished God's wider purposes. Dispersed Jews maintained monotheistic faith in pagan contexts, eventually facilitating gospel spread. First-century synagogues throughout the Roman Empire (Acts 13-18) resulted from Babylonian and later dispersions. God's judgment on Israel became, providentially, preparation for international mission. God works even judgment into His redemptive purposes.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty over military defeats and national dissolutions comfort believers facing political instability?
2. What does the fulfillment of ancient covenant curses teach about taking God's warnings seriously?
3. In what ways has God used historical judgments and dispersions to accomplish wider redemptive purposes?

Interlinear Text

וְכָל	אֲשֶׁר	רַ	סְבִיבֹתָיו	עֲזָרָה	וְכָל	אֶגְפָּיו
H3605	H834		all that are about	him to help	H3605	him and all his bands
			H5439	H5828		H102
אֶזְרָה	לְכָל	רֹ	וְכָל	אֶזְרָה	אֶזְרָה	אֶזְרָה
And I will scatter	H3605	toward every wind	the sword	and I will draw out		
H2219		H7307	H2719	H7324		

אַחֲרֵיהֶם:

after

H310

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 5:2 (Word): Thou shalt burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled: and thou shalt take a third part, and smite about it with a knife: and a third part thou shalt scatter in the wind; and I will draw out a sword after them.

Ezekiel 17:21 (Word): And all his fugitives with all his bands shall fall by the sword, and they that remain shall be scattered toward all winds: and ye shall know that I the LORD have spoken it.