

Jeremiah 1:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the LORD; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah.

Analysis

God specifies His action in releasing judgment: 'For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the LORD; and they shall come.' The phrase 'I will call' (qore ani, קִרְא אֲנִי) reveals divine sovereignty—God summons these nations as His instruments. The 'families of the kingdoms of the north' refers to Babylonian empire and its vassal states—a multi-national coalition under Nebuchadnezzar's command. The description of their military campaign follows: 'and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah.' The imagery of setting thrones at Jerusalem's gates pictures siege and occupation—enemy commanders establishing headquarters at the city's entry points, symbolizing conquest and judgment. 'Against all the walls thereof round about' describes comprehensive siege—complete encirclement cutting off escape and supplies. 'Against all the cities of Judah' indicates nationwide devastation beyond Jerusalem alone. This detailed prediction describes both siege warfare tactics and complete territorial conquest. The theological significance: God Himself orchestrates this invasion, calling foreign armies to execute covenant judgment on His own people.

Historical Context

This prophecy's fulfillment is documented in both biblical and extra-biblical sources. Second Kings 24-25 describes Babylonian sieges of Jerusalem. Jeremiah 39 and 52 provide detailed accounts of the final siege—Babylonian army surrounding the city, breaching walls, capturing King Zedekiah, burning the temple and palace, demolishing walls, and exiling survivors. The Babylonian Chronicle (cuneiform text) confirms Nebuchadnezzar's campaigns against Judah in 605 and 597 BC. Archaeological excavations at Jerusalem's eastern wall revealed Babylonian siege ramp and arrowheads. The Lachish Letters (ostraca found at Tel Lachish) mention the crisis as Babylonian forces conquered Judean cities one by one. Jeremiah 34:7 notes that only Jerusalem, Lachish, and Azekah remained unconquered near the end—exactly matching archaeological evidence of massive destruction at these sites. This correlation between prophetic word, biblical narrative, and archaeological evidence demonstrates Scripture's historical reliability.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that God sovereignly 'called' pagan Babylon to judge Judah challenge simplistic views of God blessing His people and judging pagans?
2. What does God's use of enemy nations as instruments of discipline teach about His control over history and international events?

Jeremiah 43:10 (Kingdom): And say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will send and take Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will set his throne upon these stones that I have hid; and he shall spread his royal pavilion over them.

Isaiah 22:7 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that thy choicest valleys shall be full of chariots, and the horsemen shall set themselves in array at the gate.

Jeremiah 39:3 (Kingdom): And all the princes of the king of Babylon came in, and sat in the middle gate, even Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim, Rab-saris, Nergal-sharezer, Rab-mag, with all the residue of the princes of the king of Babylon.

Jeremiah 10:25 (Parallel theme): Pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not, and upon the families that call not on thy name: for they have eaten up Jacob, and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his habitation desolate.