

Jeremiah 10:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will sling out the inhabitants of the land at this once, and will distress them, that they may find it so.

Analysis

This verse announces divine action: 'For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will sling out the inhabitants of the land at this once.' The Hebrew qala (עָלָק, sling) pictures God hurling the population out as stones from a sling—sudden, violent, irresistible. 'At this once' (happa'am) indicates the decisive, final nature of this judgment. 'And will distress them, that they may find it so.' The Hebrew tsarar (צָרָר, distress, press hard) describes coming suffering. 'That they may find' suggests the purpose: experiencing judgment will force acknowledgment of truth. The verse promises exile as divine action, not merely Babylonian conquest.

Historical Context

The sling was a common weapon in ancient warfare (1 Samuel 17:40). The image of God 'slinging out' inhabitants is violently expressive—not gradual displacement but forceful ejection. The three deportations (605, 597, 586 BC) progressively emptied Judah of its population, fulfilling this graphic prophecy.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the sling imagery convey the violent, sudden nature of judgment?
2. What does the purpose clause—"that they may find"—suggest about judgment's pedagogical function?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה קֹל עַל אָמֵר הָנֶת יְהִי כֹּה כִּי
H3588 H3541 For thus saith the LORD Behold I will sling H853
H559 H3068 H2005 H7049

לֹא מִשְׁבֵּב יְהִי בְּעֵם בְּפִעָּם בְּזַעַם אַתָּה תִּמְצָא וּבְאַתָּה תִּמְצָא
out the inhabitants of the land at this once and will distress H1992
H3427 H776 H6471 H2063 H6887

לֹמְעָן מִמְצָאוֹן
H4616 them that they may find H4672

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 25:29 (References Lord): Yet a man is risen to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul: but the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, as out of the middle of a sling.

Zechariah 1:6 (References Lord): But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.