

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* (קָלָה, 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* (צָרַר, 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

פִּי	כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	הִנֵּנִי	קוֹלִי	אֶת
H3588	H3541	For thus saith	the LORD	H2005	Behold I will sling	H853
		H559	H3068		H7049	
יֹשְׁבֵי	הָאָרֶץ	בְּפַעַם	הַזֹּאת	וְהִצַּרְתִּי	לָהֶם	
out the inhabitants	of the land	at this once	H2063	and will distress	H1992	
H3427	H776	H6471		H6887		
לָהֶם	יִמְצְאוּ:					
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.