

Jeremiah 10:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

This verse concludes with prayer for justice against oppressors: 'Pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not.' The Hebrew shaphak (שָׁפַךְ, pour out) with chemah (חֶמֶת, heat, rage, fury) requests divine wrath directed at pagan nations. 'That know thee not' (lo yeda'ukha) identifies them as those lacking covenant relationship. 'And upon the families that call not on thy name.' Families/clans (mishpachoth) who don't invoke YHWH's name in worship deserve judgment. 'For they have eaten up Jacob, and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his habitation desolate.' Three verbs—eaten (akal), devoured (kalah), consumed (tamam)—intensify the description of destruction. The prayer asks God to judge the instruments of judgment—holding Babylon accountable for excessive cruelty while acknowledging Israel's deserved discipline.

Historical Context

This prayer appears nearly identically in Psalm 79:6-7, suggesting liturgical usage. The theology is consistent with Jeremiah 25:12-14 and 50-51—God will judge Babylon for destroying what He commanded them to destroy but with arrogant cruelty exceeding divine commission. Isaiah similarly promises judgment on Assyria for proud excess (Isaiah 10:5-19). Divine instruments remain accountable for their methods.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How can the same actions be both divinely commissioned judgment and punishable human cruelty?
2. What does this prayer for justice against oppressors reveal about trusting God to judge rightly?

Interlinear Text

שָׁפֵךְ	עַל	פָּמָתֶב	עַל	לֹא	אֲשֶׁר	רַגְגִּים	לֹא	יְדַעַת	בְּ	עַל
Pour out	thy fury	H5921	upon the heathen	H834	H3808	that know	H5921			
H8210	H2534		H1471		H3045					
וְתַּמְשִׁפְחָה	וְתַּמְשִׁפְחָה	אֲשֶׁר	בְּשָׁמֶן	לֹא	זָקֵן	אֲוִי	לְ	כִּי		
thee not and upon the families	H4940	H834	not on thy name	H8034	H3808	that call	H3588			
					H7121					
וְאָתָה	וְאָתָה	וְאָכַל	וְאָכַל	וְאָכַל	וְאָכַל	וְאָכַל	וְאָתָה			
and devoured	H853	Jacob	and devoured	H398	H3615	him and consumed	H853			
H398	H3290									
וְהַשְׁמִמָּה										
him and have made his habitation	H5116		desolate	H8074						

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 8:16 (Parallel theme): The snorting of his horses was heard from Dan: the whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones; for they

are come, and have devoured the land, and all that is in it; the city, and those that dwell therein.

Psalms 14:4 (Parallel theme): Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.

Job 18:21 (Parallel theme): Surely such are the dwellings of the wicked, and this is the place of him that knoweth not God.

Psalms 27:2 (Parallel theme): When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

Jeremiah 50:7 (Parallel theme): All that found them have devoured them: and their adversaries said, We offend not, because they have sinned against the LORD, the habitation of justice, even the LORD, the hope of their fathers.

Jeremiah 50:17 (Parallel theme): Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones.

Zechariah 1:15 (Parallel theme): And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction.

1 Thessalonians 4:5 (Parallel theme): Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

2 Thessalonians 1:8 (Parallel theme): In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Zephaniah 1:6 (Parallel theme): And them that are turned back from the LORD; and those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for him.