

# 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

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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* (חֵמָה, 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

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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

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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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

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שֹׁפַךְ	חֲמַתְךָ	עַל	הַגּוֹיִם	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא	יָדְעוּ וְ	יַעַל
<b>Pour out</b>	<b>thy fury</b>	H5921	<b>upon the heathen</b>	H834	H3808	<b>that know</b>	H5921
H8210	H2534		H1471			H3045	
מִשְׁפָּח וְ	אֲשֶׁר	בְּשִׁמְךָ	לֹא	קֹרְאוֹ	כִּי		
<b>thee not and upon the families</b>	H834	<b>not on thy name</b>	H3808	<b>that call</b>	H3588		
H4940		H8034		H7121			
וַאֲכָל הוּ	אֶת	יַעֲקֹב ב	וַאֲכָל הוּ	וַיֹּכֵל הוּ	וְ		
<b>and devoured</b>	H853	<b>Jacob</b>	<b>and devoured</b>	<b>him and consumed</b>	H853		
H398		H3290	H398	H3615			
וַיַּהֲבֵט הוּ		הַשָּׁמָיִם					
<b>him and have made his habitation</b>		<b>desolate</b>					
H5116		H8074					

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.