

Jeremiah 12:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD against all mine evil neighbours, that touch the inheritance which I have caused my people Israel to inherit; Behold, I will pluck them out of their land, and pluck out the house of Judah from among them.

Analysis

This verse transitions to promise: 'Thus saith the LORD against all mine evil neighbours, that touch the inheritance which I have caused my people Israel to inherit.' The 'evil neighbours' (shechenim hara'im) are surrounding nations who participated in Judah's destruction—Edom, Moab, Ammon, Philistia. 'Touch the inheritance' (noge'im banachalah) indicates violating Israel's God-given land. 'Behold, I will pluck them out of their land, and pluck out the house of Judah from among them.' The Hebrew natash (נָתַשׁ, uproot, pluck out) applies to both neighbors (judgment) and Judah (restoration). Exile will separate Judah from her enemies, ultimately for restoration.

Historical Context

Nations surrounding Judah took advantage of Babylon's invasion to seize territory and loot (Ezekiel 25, 35; Obadiah; Amos 1:3-2:3). Edom was particularly aggressive (Psalm 137:7, Lamentations 4:21-22). God promises judgment on these opportunistic 'neighbors' and eventual restoration of Judah. Both judgments were fulfilled: surrounding nations were conquered by Babylon, then Persia; Judah returned from exile under Cyrus's decree.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does judgment on nations who 'touched' God's inheritance demonstrate His continued commitment to Israel?
2. What does 'plucking out' both enemies and Judah suggest about God's comprehensive sovereignty?

Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 3:18 (References Israel): In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers.

Zechariah 2:8 (References Lord): For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.

Jeremiah 49:7 (References Lord): Concerning Edom, thus saith the LORD of hosts; Is wisdom no more in Teman? is counsel perished from the prudent? is their wisdom vanished?

Psalms 106:47 (References Lord): Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise.

Jeremiah 2:3 (Evil): Israel was holiness unto the LORD, and the firstfruits of his increase: all that devour him shall offend; evil shall come upon them, saith the LORD.

Deuteronomy 30:3 (References Lord): That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.
