

Jeremiah 13:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The cities of the south shall be shut up, and none shall open them: Judah shall be carried away captive all of it, it shall be wholly carried away captive.

Analysis

This verse announces southern devastation: 'The cities of the south shall be shut up, and none shall open them: Judah shall be carried away captive all of it, it shall be wholly carried away captive.' 'Cities of the south' (arei hanegev) refers to the Negev region, southern Judah's dry zone. 'Shut up' (suggeru) means closed, with no one to open—depopulated, abandoned. 'Judah carried away captive all of it' (galtha Yehuda kulah)—complete deportation. 'Wholly carried away' (galtha shelomim) emphasizes totality—everyone, entirely. The prophetic announcement of comprehensive exile includes even distant southern cities.

Historical Context

Nebuchadnezzar's campaigns against Judah included southern territories. Archaeological surveys confirm destruction and abandonment of Negev settlements during this period. The three deportations (605, 597, 586 BC) progressively emptied the land. The exile was indeed comprehensive—though a remnant remained, the organized society was entirely dismantled.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does 'cities shut up with none to open' picture about post-judgment desolation?
2. How does the emphasis on 'all' and 'wholly' counter any hope of partial escape?

Interlinear Text

עָרֵי י	הַנָּגֶב	סָגְרוּ ו	וְאֵין	פִּתְחֵם
The cities	of the south	shall be shut up	H369	and none shall open
H5892	H5045	H5462		H6605
הֶגְלָת	יְהוּדָה	כָּל הַ	הֶגְלָת	
carried away captive	them Judah	H3605	carried away captive	
H1540	H3063		H1540	
שְׁלֹמִים:				
all of it it shall be wholly				
H7965				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 52:27 (Parallel theme): And the king of Babylon smote them, and put them to death in Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah was carried away captive out of his own land.

Jeremiah 39:9 (Parallel theme): Then Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard carried away captive into Babylon the remnant of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to him, with the rest of the people that remained.

Jeremiah 52:30 (Parallel theme): In the three and twentieth year of Nebuchadrezzar Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard carried away captive of the Jews seven hundred forty and five persons: all the persons were four thousand and six hundred.

Deuteronomy 28:52 (Parallel theme): And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.

2 Kings 25:21 (Parallel theme): And the king of Babylon smote them, and slew them at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was carried away out of their land.

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