

Jeremiah 13:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore will I scatter them as the stubble that passeth away
by the wind of the wilderness.

Analysis

This verse announces scattering: 'Therefore will I scatter them as the stubble that passeth away by the wind of the wilderness.' 'Stubble' (qash) is the lightweight chaff left after threshing—blown away by wind. 'Wind of the wilderness' (ruach midbar) is the hot, dry desert wind that carries stubble away completely. Israel will be scattered (patsats) like worthless chaff, carried away by judgment's wind, unable to resist. The agricultural imagery emphasizes both worthlessness (stubble, not grain) and helplessness (blown by wind beyond control).

Historical Context

Chaff/stubble imagery for the wicked appears throughout Scripture (Psalm 1:4, Isaiah 17:13, Hosea 13:3). The threshing floor separated valuable grain from worthless chaff; wind carried chaff away. Israel, having become worthless through sin, would be similarly scattered. The exile fulfilled this exactly—population dispersed throughout the Babylonian Empire like chaff on wind.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does the stubble/chaff imagery indicate about the worthlessness of covenant-violating Israel?
2. How does scattering by wind picture the helplessness of judgment?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶפְיֹצֵם	כְּקֶשֶׂשׁ	עֹבֵר	לְרֵיחַ
Therefore will I scatter	them as the stubble	that passeth away	by the wind
H6327	H7179	H5674	H7307
מִדְבָּר:			
of the wilderness			
H4057			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 1:4 (Parallel theme): The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Leviticus 26:33 (Parallel theme): And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

Ezekiel 5:12 (Parallel theme): A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.

Ezekiel 5:2 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled: and thou shalt take a third part, and smite about it with a knife: and a third part thou shalt scatter in the wind; and I will draw out a sword after them.

Hosea 13:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew that passeth away, as the chaff that is driven with the whirlwind out of the floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney.

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