

Jeremiah 13:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Take the girdle that thou hast got, which is upon thy loins, and arise, go to Euphrates, and hide it there in a hole of the rock.

Analysis

This verse commands concealment: 'Take the girdle that thou hast got, which is upon thy loins, and arise, go to Euphrates, and hide it there in a hole of the rock.' The Hebrew Perath (פֶּרַת) is usually 'Euphrates' (major river in Mesopotamia) but some suggest Parah, a town near Anathoth. 'Hide it' (tamnenu, from taman—bury, conceal) in 'hole of the rock' (neqiq hasela) indicates placing it where moisture and decay will affect it. The location—whether Euphrates or nearby Parah—represents Babylon, the source of coming judgment.

Historical Context

If literally the Euphrates (approximately 700 miles distant), the journey would take several weeks each direction—an extreme commitment to symbolic action. If Parah (about 4 miles from Anathoth), the Hebrew pun on Perath would still evoke Babylon. Either way, the hiding location associated with Babylon represented the exile that would 'ruin' Judah. Water and time would decay the buried garment.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What significance does the location (Euphrates/Babylon) add to the symbolic action?
2. How does burying the garment in rock crevice ensure its decay?

Interlinear Text

חַ	אֶת	הַאֲזֹרָה	אֲשֶׁר	קָנִיתָ	אֲשֶׁר	עַל
Take	H853	the girdle	H834	that thou hast got	H834	H5921
H3947		H232		H7069		
	מֵתֶנּוּ יָרֵךְ	וְקוּמוּ	לִי	כִּי תֵהָ	וְסִתְּמֵהוּ	שָׁם
	which is upon thy loins	and arise	H1980	to Euphrates	and hide	H8033
	H4975	H6965		H6578	H2934	
	בְּנֶקֶד יָקָן	הַסֵּלַע:				
	it there in a hole	of the rock				
	H5357	H5553				

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