

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 (נְרָת) is usually 'Euphrates' (major river in Mesopotamia) but some suggest Parah, a town near Anathoth. 'Hide it' (tammenu, 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

עַל אֲשֶׁר בָּאָז וְאַתָּה קְרַב

Take H853 **the girdle** H834 **that thou hast got** H834 **and hide** H5921

H3947

H232

H7069

מִתְחַנֵּן יְהֹוָה לְגַם

which is upon thy loins **and arise** **to Euphrates** **and hide**

H4975

H6965

H1980

H6578

H8033

בָּלָע: בְּנֵקְקִים

it there in a hole **of the rock**

H5357

H5553

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org