

Jeremiah 14:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Judah mourneth, and the gates thereof languish; they are black unto the ground; and the cry of Jerusalem is gone up.

Analysis

The drought's effects are national: 'Judah mourneth, and the gates thereof languish; they are black unto the ground.' The 'gates' represent cities and places of commerce and justice, now failing. The phrase 'black unto the ground' suggests mourning attire (sackcloth) or drought-parched earth. The consequence extends to the national identity: 'and the cry of Jerusalem is gone up,' indicating prayer born of desperation. This verse shows that God uses physical crises to drive His people to prayer. The comprehensive nature (from gates to Jerusalem itself) reveals that no aspect of national life escapes drought's impact.

Historical Context

City gates served as commercial centers and courts. Their 'languishing' meant economic and judicial systems failing. Drought affected all social classes, creating universal crisis that should have driven corporate repentance.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God use physical crises to drive people to prayer and dependence?
2. What is the relationship between corporate suffering and corporate prayer?
3. How should economic and agricultural disasters be interpreted theologically?

Interlinear Text

קָדְרָה אָמָלָל וְאַבְלָה
and the gates thereof languish they are black

mourneth Judah and the gates thereof languish they are black

H56 H3063 H8179 H535 H6937

עַלְתָּה: יְרוּשָׁלָם אֶצְעָם תְּאַלְּתָה
is gone up of Jerusalem and the cry unto the ground

unto the ground and the cry of Jerusalem is gone up

H776 H6682 H3389 H5927

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 3:26 (Parallel theme): And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she being desolate shall sit upon the ground.

Jeremiah 8:21 (Parallel theme): For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt; I am black; astonishment hath taken hold on me.

1 Samuel 5:12 (Parallel theme): And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

Zechariah 7:13 (Parallel theme): Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:

Jeremiah 11:11 (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them.