

Jeremiah 14:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the wild asses did stand in the high places, they snuffed up the wind like dragons; their eyes did fail, because there was no grass.

Analysis

The description continues: 'And the wild asses did stand in the high places, they snuffed up the wind like dragons; their eyes did fail, because there was no grass.' Wild asses, adapted to harsh environments, stand on heights desperately seeking moisture, 'snuffing up the wind' (possibly for rain scent or from heat). The comparison to 'dragons' (likely jackals) emphasizes their panting thirst. The phrase 'their eyes did fail' depicts desperation and exhaustion. If creatures adapted to desert conditions suffer, the drought must be extreme. This reinforces that God's judgment, when it comes, is thorough and severe.

Historical Context

Wild asses (onagers) were known for enduring harsh conditions (Job 39:5-8). Their suffering indicated drought beyond normal seasonal variation, pointing to supernatural judgment.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does the suffering of even hardy, adapted creatures teach about judgment's severity?
2. How do God's judgments often exceed natural explanation, pointing to supernatural intervention?
3. What warning does creation's distress provide about impending or present divine judgment?

Interlinear Text

רַ� וְנַעֲשֵׂה שָׁאֵף וְנַשְׁאֵב
And the wild asses did stand in the high places they snuffed up the wind
H6501 H5975 H5921 H8205 H7602 H7307

עֲשֵׂבָה כִּי כִּל וְעַיְנִיתָם אֵין
like dragons did fail their eyes because there was no grass
H8577 H3615 H5869 H3588 H369 H6212

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 2:24 (Parallel theme): A wild ass used to the wilderness, that snuffeth up the wind at her pleasure; in her occasion who can turn her away? all they that seek her will not weary themselves; in her month they shall find her.

Joel 1:18 (Parallel theme): How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate.