

Jeremiah 15:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will make thee to pass with thine enemies into a land which thou knowest not: for a fire is kindled in mine anger, which shall burn upon you.

Analysis

The consequence continues: 'And I will make thee to pass with thine enemies into a land which thou knowest not: for a fire is kindled in mine anger, which shall burn upon you.' Exile to unknown lands is threatened. The phrase 'pass with thine enemies' depicts deportation as captives. The destination—'a land which thou knowest not'—emphasizes the disorientation and trauma of forced relocation. The cause: 'a fire is kindled in mine anger.' God's wrath is active, burning against them. This anthropomorphic language ('kindled,' 'burn') emphasizes divine judgment's intensity. The Reformed doctrine of God's wrath sees it as His settled, righteous opposition to sin—not emotional instability but holy hatred of evil.

Historical Context

The Babylonian exile forcibly relocated Judeans to Mesopotamia, a foreign land with different language, culture, and climate. This dislocation fulfilled the covenant curse of exile (Deuteronomy 28:36-37, 64-68).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does exile to unknown lands represent loss of identity and security?
2. What does the fire metaphor teach about the nature and intensity of God's wrath?
3. How should understanding God's wrath as 'kindled' against sin affect our view of its seriousness?

Interlinear Text

ל א בָּא רָצָן אַת אַת עֲבָרְתִּי
And I will make thee to pass H5674 H854 with thine enemies H341 into a land H776 H3808

עַלְיכָם בְּאֵפֶר קָרְבָּה אֵשׁ קָרְבָּה הִנֵּה אֵשׁ
which thou knowest H3045 H3588 not for a fire H784 is kindled H6919 in mine anger H639 H5921

תְּמִימָנֶת:
which shall burn
H3344

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 16:13 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I cast you out of this land into a land that ye know not, neither ye nor your fathers; and there shall ye serve other gods day and night; where I will not shew you favour.

Deuteronomy 32:22 (Parallel theme): For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

Psalms 21:9 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them.

Jeremiah 17:4 (Parallel theme): And thou, even thyself, shalt discontinue from thine heritage that I gave thee; and I will cause thee to serve thine enemies in the land which thou knowest not: for ye have kindled a fire in mine anger, which shall burn for ever.

Deuteronomy 28:36 (Parallel theme): The LORD shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone.

Deuteronomy 28:64 (Parallel theme): And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.