Jeremiah 15:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> And I will fan them with a fan in the gates of the land; I will bereave them of children, I will destroy my people, since they return not from their ways.

Analysis

This verse describes comprehensive judgment: 'And I will fan them with a fan in the gates of the land; I will bereave them of children, I will destroy my people, since they return not from their ways.' 'Fan with a fan' (zaritim bemizreh) uses winnowing imagery—separating chaff from grain, scattering the worthless. 'In the gates of the land' suggests border locations where enemies enter. 'Bereave of children' (shakkaltim) describes loss of the next generation—the future eliminated. 'They return not from their ways' reiterates the persistent refusal to repent (shuv) that justifies judgment.

Historical Context

Winnowing was agricultural judgment—wind separated valuable grain from worthless chaff. Applied to population, it describes exile's scattering. 'Bereaving of children' occurred through siege conditions, military casualties, and deportation that separated families. The exile would indeed eliminate a generation from the land. 'Not returning from their ways' summarizes the fundamental problem—refusal to repent despite repeated warning.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does winnowing imagery picture judgment's separation of people for different fates?
2. What makes bereavement of children such a devastating element of judgment?

Interlinear Text

וָאֶזְרֵם	בְּמִזְרֶה	בִּשַׁעֲרֵי	הָאָרֶץ	שִׁכַּלְתִּי
And I will fan	them with a fan	in the gates	of the land	I will bereave
H2219	H4214	H8179	H776	H7921

אִבַּדְתִּי	אֵת	עַמִּי	מִדַּרְכֵיהֶם	לוֹא
them of children I will destroy	H853	my people	not from their ways	H3808
H6		H5971	H1870	

שָׁבוּ:
since they return
H7725

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 51:2 (Parallel theme): And will send unto Babylon fanners, that shall fan her, and shall empty her land: for in the day of trouble they shall be against her round about.

Matthew 3:12 (Parallel theme): Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Isaiah 41:16 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 9:13 (Parallel theme): For the people turneth not unto him that smiteth them, neither do they seek the LORD of hosts.

Jeremiah 5:3 (Parallel theme): O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.

Psalms 1:4 (Parallel theme): The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Jeremiah 18:21 (Parallel theme): Therefore deliver up their children to the famine, and pour out their blood by the force of the sword; and let their wives be bereaved of their children, and be widows; and let their men be put to death; let their young men be slain by the sword in battle.

Zechariah 1:4 (Parallel theme): Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the LORD.

Deuteronomy 28:41 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt beget sons and daughters, but thou shalt not enjoy them; for they shall go into captivity.

Ezekiel 24:25 (Parallel theme): Also, thou son of man, shall it not be in the day when I take from them their strength, the joy of their glory, the desire of their eyes, and that whereupon they set their minds, their sons and their daughters,