

Jeremiah 16:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes.

Analysis

Shift in focus: 'Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.' Before restoration (v. 15), comes thorough judgment. The 'fishers' and 'hunters' represent agents of judgment (likely Babylonian forces) who will comprehensively seek out Judeans. No hiding place ('every mountain,' 'every hill,' 'holes of the rocks') will provide refuge. This demonstrates judgment's thoroughness before mercy. The fishing and hunting imagery suggests both are captured—some more easily (fished), others after pursuit (hunted). God's sovereignty extends to ensuring none escape decreed judgment.

Historical Context

During the Babylonian conquest and subsequent deportations, fugitives who fled to mountains and caves were systematically hunted down and captured or killed (Jeremiah 41-43).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does the thoroughness of judgment teach about the impossibility of escaping God's decrees?
2. How do the fishing and hunting metaphors illustrate different aspects of divine judgment?
3. Why does comprehensive judgment often precede restoration in God's redemptive pattern?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	עֵינָי:	עַל	כָּל	וְרַכִּיָּהֶם	לֹא	נִסְתָּרוּ
H3588	For mine eyes	H5921	H3605	are upon all their ways	H3808	they are not hid
	H5869			H1870		H5641
מִלִּפְנֵי	וְלֹא	נִצָּפָה	וְעוֹנָם	מִן־גֹּד	עֵינָי:	
from my face	H3808	hid	neither is their iniquity	from	For mine eyes	
H6440		H6845	H5771	H5048	H5869	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 15:3 (Parallel theme): The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Psalms 90:8 (Sin): Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

Proverbs 5:21 (Parallel theme): For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.

Jeremiah 23:24 (Parallel theme): Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

Hebrews 4:13 (Parallel theme): Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Jeremiah 32:19 (Parallel theme): Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings:

1 Corinthians 4:5 (Parallel theme): Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (Parallel theme): For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

Isaiah 29:15 (Parallel theme): Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?

Psalms 139:3 (Parallel theme): Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.