

Jeremiah 16:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.

Analysis

This verse envisions Gentile nations turning from idolatry to worship the true God - a remarkable prophecy of global gospel expansion. The threefold confession 'lies,' 'vanity,' and 'things wherein there is no profit' echoes Paul's language about the emptiness of idol worship (1 Cor 8:4). God's sovereignty extends to all nations; He will draw them to Himself through the proclamation of His truth.

Historical Context

Prophesied at a time when Israel itself was plunging into idolatry. The idea that pagan nations would one day abandon their gods to worship Yahweh seemed impossible, yet God promises exactly this.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What modern 'lies' and 'vanities' do people inherit from their ancestors?
2. How does this prophecy inform your understanding of missions and God's global purposes?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	עֲזִי	וּמְצָתִי	וּמְנוּסִי	בַּיּוֹם	צָרָה
O LORD	my strength	and my fortress	and my refuge	in the day	of affliction
H3068	H5797	H4581	H4498	H3117	H6869
יְבָרֵךְ	גוֹיִם	יָבֹאוּ	מֵאַפְסֵי	אֶרֶץ	
H413	the Gentiles	shall come	unto thee from the ends	of the earth	
	H1471	H935	H657	H776	
וַיֹּאמְרוּ	אָרְ	שֶׁקֶר	נָחֵל ו	אֲבוֹתֵינוּ	הֵבֶל
and shall say	H389	lies	have inherited	Surely our fathers	vanity
H559		H8267	H5157	H1	H1892
וְ	מוֹעִיל:				
H0	and things wherein there is no profit				
	H3276				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 25:4 (Parallel theme): For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.

Nahum 1:7 (References Lord): The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

Psalms 86:9 (References Lord): All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.

Jeremiah 17:17 (Parallel theme): Be not a terror unto me: thou art my hope in the day of evil.

Isaiah 44:10 (Parallel theme): Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing?

Isaiah 49:6 (Parallel theme): And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

Zechariah 2:11 (References Lord): And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee.

Malachi 1:11 (References Lord): For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.