

Jeremiah 21:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I have set my face against this city for evil, and not for good, saith the LORD: it shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire.

Analysis

God declares He has 'set my face against this city for evil, and not for good.' The phrase 'set my face' indicates determined purpose - God's active opposition rather than passive withdrawal. This city will be given into Babylon's hand to be burned with fire. When God's patience exhausts, His opposition to sin becomes active judgment. There is no neutrality with God - blessing or curse, life or death (Deut 30:19).

Historical Context

This pronouncement came during the final siege of Jerusalem. Zedekiah's inquiry hoped for miraculous deliverance like in Hezekiah's day (Isa 37), but God's decree was fixed.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does it mean when God 'sets His face' for evil rather than good?

2. How do you recognize when God's patience has given way to active judgment?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	שֶׁ מָתִי	פָּנַי	בְּעִיר	הַזֹּאת	לְרָעָה	וְלֹא
H3588	For I have set	my face	against this city	H2063	for evil	H3808
	H7760	H6440	H5892		H7451	
לְטוֹבָה	נֹאמַר	יְהוָה	בְּיָד	מֶלֶךְ	בָּבֶל	
and not for good	saith	the LORD	into the hand	of the king	of Babylon	
H2896	H5002	H3068	H3027	H4428	H894	
תִּתֵּן	וְשָׂרַף	בָּאֵשׁ:				
it shall be given	and he shall burn	it with fire				
H5414	H8313	H784				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 44:11 (Evil): Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will set my face against you for evil, and to cut off all Judah.

Jeremiah 44:27 (Evil): Behold, I will watch over them for evil, and not for good: and all the men of Judah that are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine, until there be an end of them.

Amos 9:4 (Evil): And though they go into captivity before their enemies, thence will I command the sword, and it shall slay them: and I will set mine eyes upon them for evil, and not for good.

Jeremiah 52:13 (Kingdom): And burned the house of the LORD, and the king's house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, and all the houses of the great men, burned he with fire:

Ezekiel 15:7 (References Lord): And I will set my face against them; they shall go out from one fire, and another fire shall devour them; and ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I set my face against them.

Jeremiah 38:3 (Kingdom): Thus saith the LORD, This city shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which shall take it.

Jeremiah 34:2 (Kingdom): Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire:

Jeremiah 39:8 (Kingdom): And the Chaldeans burned the king's house, and the houses of the people, with fire, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 38:18 (Kingdom): But if thou wilt not go forth to the king of Babylon's princes, then shall this city be given into the hand of the Chaldeans, and they shall burn it with fire, and thou shalt not escape out of their hand.

2 Chronicles 36:19 (Good): And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.