

Jeremiah 21:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings,
saith the LORD: and I will kindle a fire in the forest thereof,
and it shall devour all things round about it.

Analysis

God will kindle fire in Jerusalem's 'forest' (likely referring to Solomon's 'house of the forest of Lebanon' - 1 Kings 7:2) that will 'devour all things round about it.' Fire frequently symbolizes God's judgment (Deut 32:22). This comprehensive destruction spares nothing - a complete purging of sin's effects. The warning fulfills Moses' prophecy of covenant curses.

Historical Context

This was literally fulfilled when Babylon burned Jerusalem's buildings, including the temple and royal structures. The city became desolate ruins.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does fire imagery teach about the thorough nature of God's judgment?
2. How does God sometimes need to burn away what we've built to start fresh?

Interlinear Text

וּפָקַדְתִּי י	עָלֶיךָ ׀	כַּפֹּר י	מַעֲלָלֶיךָ ׀	נֹאֵם	
But I will punish	H5921	you according to the fruit	of your doings	saith	
H6485		H6529	H4611	H5002	
יְהוָה ה	וְהִצַּתִּי	אֵשׁ	בְּיַעַר ה	וְאָכַל ה	כָּל
the LORD	and I will kindle	a fire	in the forest	thereof and it shall devour	H3605
H3068	H3341	H784	H3293	H398	
סְבִיבָיָהּ:					
all things round about					
H5439					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 1:31 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

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:

Jeremiah 17:10 (References Lord): I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Jeremiah 52:13 (References Lord): 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:

2 Chronicles 36:19 (Parallel theme): 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.

Jeremiah 9:25 (References Lord): Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will punish all them which are circumcised with the uncircumcised;

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