

Jeremiah 22:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thus saith the LORD touching Shallum the son of Josiah king of Judah, which reigned instead of Josiah his father, which went forth out of this place; He shall not return thither any more:

Analysis

For thus saith the LORD touching Shallum the son of Josiah king of Judah—God identifies the exiled king by his personal name Shallum (שָׁלָל), meaning 'retribution' or 'recompense,' rather than his throne name Jehoahaz. This may be intentional irony: his name means 'retribution,' and he experienced exactly that for failing to follow his father's righteousness. The phrase **touching** (el, אֶל) means 'concerning' or 'regarding.' **Which reigned instead of Josiah his father** emphasizes succession: he inherited his father's throne but not his character. 2 Kings 23:32 says, 'And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done,' directly contradicting Josiah's faithfulness.

Which went forth out of this place; He shall not return thither any more—asher yatza min-hamakom hazeh lo yashuv sham od (אשר יצא מ-המקום זה לא-שב שם עוד). The word makom (מקום, 'place') can mean geographic location, but often refers theologically to the place where God's name dwells—Jerusalem/the temple. Shallum 'went forth' from God's place and will never return. The finality is emphatic: lo yashuv...od (לא-שב...עוד, 'not return...anymore'). This is exile as ultimate covenant curse, fulfilling Deuteronomy 28:36: 'The LORD shall bring thee, and thy king...unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known.'

Historical Context

Shallum/Jehoahaz reigned only three months (July-September 609 BC) before Pharaoh Neco deposed him and took him to Egypt (2 Kings 23:31-34). The historical context is crucial: after Josiah's death at Megiddo, Judah became vassal to Egypt. Neco removed Jehoahaz (whom the people had chosen) and installed his brother Jehoiakim as puppet king, demanding massive tribute (2 Kings 23:33-35). Jehoahaz died in Egypt, never seeing Judah again. His brief reign and exile marked the beginning of Judah's final collapse: after him came Jehoiakim (puppet of Egypt then Babylon), Jehoiachin (exiled to Babylon after 3 months), and Zedekiah (whose rebellion brought Jerusalem's destruction). The prophecy's fulfillment was rapid and exact: within verse 12's timeframe, Shallum died in Egyptian captivity. His fate foreshadowed the greater Babylonian exile to come, when the entire nation would 'go forth from this place' and many would never return.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does the use of Shallum's personal name rather than throne name suggest about God seeing beyond royal titles to personal character and accountability?
2. How does Shallum's failure to emulate Josiah's righteousness, despite being his son and successor, illustrate that spiritual heritage is not inherited automatically?
3. What does the phrase 'went forth out of this place' reveal about exile as not merely geographic displacement but separation from the 'place' of God's covenantal presence?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אָמַר	הָיָה	אֶל	שְׁלֹמֹךְ	בָּנָי
H3588	H3541	H559	H3068	H413	H7967
For thus saith	the LORD	touching	Shallum	the son	H1121
וְאַשְׁרִי	הָיָה	מֶלֶךְ	בְּמִלְחָמָה	בְּתִתְמָמָה	וְאַשְׁרִי
instead of Josiah	king	of Judah	which reigned	H8478	instead of Josiah
H2977	H4428	H3063	H4427		H2977
אָבִיו	אָשָׁר	יָצַא	מִן	בְּמִלְחָמָה	לֹא
his father	H834	which went forth	H4480	out of this place	H2088
H1		H3318		H4725	H3808
וְבָבֶל	שְׁלֹמֹךְ	עִזּוֹד:			
He shall not return	H8033	H5750			
H7725					

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 3:15 (Parallel theme): And the sons of Josiah were, the firstborn Johanan, the second Jehoiakim, the third Zedekiah, the fourth Shallum.

2 Kings 23:34 (Kingdom): And Pharaoh-nechoh made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the room of Josiah his father, and turned his name to Jehoiakim, and took Jehoahaz away: and he came to Egypt, and died there.