

Jeremiah 22:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will give thee into the hand of them that seek thy life, and into the hand of them whose face thou fearest, even into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of the Chaldeans.

Analysis

And I will give thee into the hand of them that seek thy life (נִתְּתִיךָ בְיַד מְבַקְשֵׁי) (netatikha b'yad m'vakshei nafshekha)—the phrase 'seek your life/soul' means 'seek to kill you.' Specifically, God identifies the agents: **into the hand of them whose face thou fearest, even into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of the Chaldeans.** The repetition of 'into the hand of' emphasizes the comprehensive nature of this surrender. What Jehoiachin feared would indeed overtake him.

The theological principle here is sobering: God actively delivers His people to judgment, not merely permitting it. The verb נָתַן (natan, 'to give/deliver') indicates divine agency. This challenges simplistic views of God's sovereignty—He uses pagan empires as instruments of covenant discipline. Paul later teaches that God 'gave them over' to sin's consequences (Romans 1:24, 26, 28). The face you fear reveals the idol you've served instead of Yahweh.

Historical Context

Jehoiachin surrendered Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar in 597 BC to avoid total destruction. The Babylonian Chronicles confirm this event, stating that Nebuchadnezzar 'captured the king' and 'appointed a king of his own choice.'

Jehoiachin was imprisoned in Babylon for decades, archaeological evidence of his rations found in Babylonian records referring to 'Jehoiachin, king of Judah.'

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What are you most afraid of, and how might that fear indicate misplaced trust?
2. How does understanding God's active role in judgment affect your view of contemporary crises?
3. In what ways might God be 'handing you over' to the consequences of your choices?

Interlinear Text

וְנָתַתִּי יָדְךָ	וְבִי יָד	מִבְּקֹשֵׁי י	נַפְשְׁךָ	וְבִי יָד
And I will give	and into the hand	of them that seek	thy life	and into the hand
H5414	H3027	H1245	H5315	H3027
אֲשֶׁר	אֶתְּ ה	יָג וְר	מִפְּנֵי הֶם	וְבִי יָד
H834	H859	thou fearest	of them whose face	and into the hand
		H3016	H6440	H3027
נְבוּכַדְרֶאצַּר	מֶלֶךְ	בָּבֶל	וְבִי יָד	הַכַּשְׁדִּים:
of Nebuchadrezzar	king	of Babylon	and into the hand	of the Chaldeans
H5019	H4428	H894	H3027	H3778

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 21:7 (Kingdom): And afterward, saith the LORD, I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah, and his servants, and the people, and such as are left in this city from the pestilence, from the sword, and from the famine, into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those that seek their life: and he shall smite them with the edge of the sword; he shall not spare them, neither have pity, nor have mercy.

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