

Jeremiah 23:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked.

Analysis

Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD is gone forth in fury—divine judgment comes as an unstoppable storm (סְעִירָה, se'arah) filled with wrath (חֵמָה, chemah). The verb 'חַזֵּל' (chul, 'writhe/whirl') describes violent circular motion like a tornado. **It shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked**—judgment strikes directly, personally. No negotiation exists with divine fury once released.

The meteorological metaphor conveys inevitability. Jesus used similar imagery of wind and storm against the foolish builder (Matthew 7:27). The wicked (רָשָׁעִים, r'sha'im) will experience God's fury crushingly 'upon the head.' When false prophets promise peace, God's whirlwind of judgment is already in motion, unstoppable and comprehensive.

Historical Context

The Babylonian invasion (605-586 BC) swept through the ancient Near East like a whirlwind. Ezekiel saw similar storm-theophany (Ezekiel 1:4). Archaeological evidence confirms systematic destruction of Judean cities during this period—the metaphorical whirlwind became literal military devastation.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What whirlwind of consequences approaches areas of unrepented sin in your life?
2. How does understanding divine wrath as unstoppable force create urgency for repentance?
3. Where do you see judgment approaching in contemporary events?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּה הַ	וְעַזְלֵךְ	יְהִי הַ	חַמְתָּה	זָאכָר הַ
H2009	Behold a whirlwind	of the LORD	in fury	is gone forth
	H5591	H3068	H2534	H3318
רְשֵׁעַ יְמִין	רְאֵשׁ	עַל	יְחִילָה	וְעַזְלֵךְ
Behold a whirlwind	even a grievous	H5921	upon the head	of the wicked
H5591	H2342		H7218	H7563
יְחִילָה				
even a grievous				
H2342				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 30:23 (Evil): Behold, the whirlwind of the LORD goeth forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind: it shall fall with pain upon the head of the wicked.

Jeremiah 25:32 (Evil): Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.

Amos 1:14 (Parallel theme): But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour the palaces thereof, with shouting in the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind:

Isaiah 21:1 (Parallel theme): The burden of the desert of the sea. As whirlwinds in the south pass through; so it cometh from the desert, from a terrible land.

Proverbs 10:25 (Evil): As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.

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