

# Jeremiah 23:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.

## Analysis

**The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed...the thoughts of his heart** (לֹא יִשׁוּב אֲפִיהָה עַד-עֲשֹׂתָו, lo yashuv af-YHWH ad-asoto)—divine anger won't reverse until completing its purpose. The phrase לִזְמֹת לִבּוֹ (m'zimmot libbo, 'thoughts/plans of his heart') shows intentional judgment, not emotional reaction. **In the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly**—retrospectively, the exiles would understand God's justice.

The verb בִּין (bin, 'understand') appears doubled for emphasis—'understand with understanding.' Hindsight vindicates divine judgment as purposeful. Daniel later studied Jeremiah's 70-year prophecy and understood (Daniel 9:2). Time proves God's word reliable and human resistance futile.

## Historical Context

Written before 586 BC, this prophecy was vindicated when Babylon destroyed Jerusalem. Exiles eventually understood that Jeremiah spoke truth while false prophets lied. The 'latter days' perspective demonstrates how divine purposes unfold across generations.

## Related Passages

## 1 John 4:8 — God is love

## 1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

1. What situations might you understand perfectly only in hindsight as God's purposeful work?
  2. How does knowing God's anger has specific purpose change your response to discipline?
  3. What past mysteries in your life do you now understand as divine intention?

## Interlinear Text

בַּמְיֻמָּד בְּאַחֲרִית לֵב וְמִזְמָן וְתַּחֲזִים וְ

and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart in the latter days

H6965 H4209 H3820 H319 H3117

בִּיהְ: בְּ הַתְּהַבֵּן  
it perfectly  
you shall consider  
4005 4008

## Additional Cross-References

**Jeremiah 30:24** (References Lord): The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it.

**Isaiah 55:11** (Parallel theme): So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

**Isaiah 14:24** (References Lord): The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:

**Proverbs 21:30** (References Lord): There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.

**Zechariah 1:6** (References Lord): But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.

**Genesis 49:1** (Parallel theme): And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.

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