

Jeremiah 25:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then took I the cup at the LORD'S hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me:

Analysis

Then took I the cup at the LORD'S hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me. Jeremiah's compliance demonstrates prophetic obedience to an unpleasant commission. The prophet didn't create this message or choose this role—God commanded, and Jeremiah obeyed. The phrase *wā'eqqah 'et-hakkōs miyyad YHWH* (וְאָקַח אֶת-הַכֹּס מֵיְהָה), then I took the cup from the LORD's hand) pictures receiving divine commission, while *wā'ashqeh 'et-kol-haggōyim* (וְאִשְׁקַה אֶת-כָּל-הָגּוּם), and made all the nations drink) describes executing that commission.

This symbolic act likely occurred in prophetic vision rather than literal journey to each nation. The prophetic word going forth accomplished God's purposes—when Jeremiah pronounced judgment, it was set in motion. This principle appears throughout Scripture: God's word, once spoken, doesn't return void but accomplishes His purpose (Isaiah 55:10-11). The prophet functions as priest of judgment, administering the cup. This prefigures Christ's dual role: as prophet declaring God's word and as priest bearing the cup of wrath Himself.

Historical Context

Jeremiah's ministry extended beyond Judah to the surrounding nations through prophetic oracles (chapters 46-51). These weren't merely predictions but divine sentences—the word of the LORD going forth to accomplish judgment. Within decades, every nation listed experienced Babylon's conquest, fulfilling the vision.

The symbolic nature of prophetic acts (Jeremiah also smashed pottery, wore yokes, buried linen belts) communicated divine truth through enacted parables.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Jeremiah's obedience in delivering unwelcome messages model faithful ministry even when the message is difficult?
2. What does the effectiveness of the prophetic word (accomplishing God's purposes when spoken) teach about the power of Scripture?
3. In what ways should preachers today see themselves as 'administering' God's word—both judgment and grace—rather than merely sharing opinions?

Interlinear Text

כָּל אֶת אֲשֶׁר יְהִי הַבָּכָר מִן הַיּוֹם וְאֶת אֲשֶׁר יְאַתֵּן כָּל

Then took H853 **I the cup** H3563 **hand** H3027 **at the LORD'S** H3068 **to drink** H853 H3605

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and made all the nations H834 **had sent** H7971 **shl'm** H3068 **אֲלֵיכֶם:** H413

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Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 1:10 (Parallel theme): See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

Jeremiah 25:28 (References Lord): And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup at thine hand to drink, then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ye shall certainly drink.

Jeremiah 27:3 (Parallel theme): And send them to the king of Edom, and to the king of Moab, and to the king of the Ammonites, and to the king of Tyrus, and to the king of Zidon, by the hand of the messengers which come to Jerusalem unto Zedekiah king of Judah;

Ezekiel 43:3 (Parallel theme): And it was according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, even according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions were like the vision that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face.

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