

Jeremiah 25:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Drink ye, and be drunken, and spue, and fall, and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you.

Analysis

Therefore thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Drink ye, and be drunken, and spue, and fall, and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you. This verse intensifies the cup imagery with graphic effects. The imperatives šētû wěšikrû ūqî'û ūniplû wělō' tāqûmû (שׁתו וְשִׁקְרֹב וְקַיָּא וְתַפְלוּ וְלֹא תַקְוִמוּ, drink, be drunken, vomit, fall, and rise no more) depict complete helplessness. Drunkenness represents loss of control and rationality; vomiting suggests violent rejection but inability to escape; falling with no rising pictures permanent defeat.

The finality of wělō' tāqûmû (וְלֹא תַקְוִמוּ, and rise no more) emphasizes irreversible judgment. This isn't temporary discipline but ultimate destruction. The phrase mipnê hahereb 'asher 'ānōkî shôlêah bénêkem (מִפְנֵי הַחֶרֶב אֲשֶׁר אָנוּקִי שָׁלֵחַ בְּנֵיכֶם), because of the sword which I send among you) reiterates God's active agency in judgment. This imagery of God's cup making nations drunk appears in Revelation: 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen...for all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication' (Revelation 14:8, 18:3). The final judgment will be comprehensive, irreversible, and divinely ordained.

Historical Context

This graphic imagery describes the collapse of nations under Babylonian conquest. Survivors reported the horror—cities destroyed, populations massacred or enslaved, civilizations ended. For some nations (like Edom), the judgment was permanent—they never recovered. For others (like Judah), temporary exile preceded restoration. The difference depended on God's sovereign purposes. The imagery of nations 'falling never to rise' found fulfillment in peoples that disappeared from history: Philistines, Edomites, Moabites, Ammonites—all extinct as distinct peoples.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this graphic imagery—drunkenness, vomiting, falling—emphasize the complete helplessness of those facing God's judgment?
2. What does the finality of 'rise no more' teach about the irreversibility of divine judgment on those who persistently reject God?
3. How should these warnings of certain, irreversible judgment motivate urgency in evangelism and personal repentance?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	כִּי	אֵלֶיךָ	מִ	אָמַר	יְהִי	הַ
Therefore thou shalt say				Therefore thou shalt say		the LORD
H559	H413	H3541		H559		H3068
וְשִׁכְרֹו	שַׁת	וְ	יִשְׁרָאֵל	אֱלֹהִים	אָכְבָא	וְתַ
of hosts	the God		of Israel	Drink	ye and be drunken	and spue
H6635	H430	H3478		H8354	H7937	H7006
וְנִפְלֶא	וְלִזְלֶא	וְ		וְשִׁכְרֹו	וְנִפְלֶא	וְנִפְלֶא
and fall	and fall			and spue	and fall	
H5307						
אַנְכִּי	אַשְׁר	רַב	בְּפַתַּח	מִפְתַּח	וְמִזְרָח	וְלֹא
and rise	no more because		of the sword			
H3808	H6965	H6440		H2719	H834	H595
בְּיַדְכֶם:	שֶׁל	כָּ				
which I will send						
H7971	H996					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 25:16 (Word): And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them.

Habakkuk 2:16 (References Lord): Thou art filled with shame for glory: drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncovered: the cup of the LORD'S right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing shall be on thy glory.

Isaiah 51:21 (Parallel theme): Therefore hear now this, thou afflicted, and drunken, but not with wine:

Lamentations 4:21 (Parallel theme): Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, that dwellest in the land of Uz; the cup also shall pass through unto thee: thou shalt be drunken, and shalt make thyself naked.