

Jeremiah 25:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the shepherds shall have no way to flee, nor the principal of the flock to escape.

Analysis

And the shepherds shall have no way to flee, nor the principal of the flock to escape. The emphatic statement *wě'ābād mānōs min-hārō'îm ûpālētâ mē'abbîrē haššō* (נָאָבָד מְנֻסָּה מִן־הָרֹ�וי וּפְלִיטָה מִאָבִרִי הַצָּא) emphasizes the inescapability of judgment. Leaders might assume their wealth, connections, or power would enable escape when judgment came, but God declares all such hopes vain. No refuge exists from divine judgment.

This principle appears throughout Scripture. Amos declared to Israel's elite: 'Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down' (Amos 9:2). Hebrews warns that 'it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God' (Hebrews 10:31) and asks, 'how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3). The psalmist acknowledged, 'Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?' (Psalm 139:7). For the unrepentant, there is no escape; for the repentant, no need to escape because Christ bore the judgment.

Historical Context

History confirmed this prophecy. When Jerusalem fell, King Zedekiah attempted to flee by night (2 Kings 25:4-5) but was captured near Jericho. His nobles who fled with him were captured and executed. Wealth couldn't buy escape—the rich suffered alongside the poor. Political connections were worthless—Egyptian

alliances provided no refuge. The powerful discovered that all human resources fail when divine judgment arrives. Only submission to God's will (as Jeremiah counseled) provided any security, and even that meant exile rather than comfortable preservation.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What refuges or escape plans do people today trust in to avoid accountability before God, and why are all such hopes ultimately futile?
2. How does the inescapability of judgment for the powerful and wealthy challenge our culture's faith in money, status, and connections?
3. What is the only true 'escape' from divine judgment, and how does the gospel provide what human efforts cannot?

Interlinear Text

מִאָדִים וְפָלִיטָה יְאָבָד
to flee shall have no way H4498 H4480 And the shepherds to escape nor the principal H117 H6413 H7462

בָּאָנָה:
of the flock H6629

Additional Cross-References

Job 11:20 (Parallel theme): But the eyes of the wicked shall fail, and they shall not escape, and their hope shall be as the giving up of the ghost.

Amos 2:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore the flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not strengthen his force, neither shall the mighty deliver himself:

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