

Jeremiah 25:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the peaceable habitations are cut down because of the fierce anger of the LORD.

Analysis

And the peaceable habitations are cut down because of the fierce anger of the LORD. The phrase *nē'élēmū nē'ôt haššālōm* (נְאָלָמָו נְאָוֹת הַשָּׁלֹם), the peaceable habitations are cut down/silenced) describes the destruction of secure, prosperous settlements. The term *nā'â* (נָאָה, habitation/pasture) continues the pastoral imagery—pleasant fields and safe dwellings destroyed. The cause: *mipnē ḥārōn 'ap̄-YHWH* (מִפְנֵי חָרֹן אֶפְרַיִם), because of the fierce anger/burning wrath of the LORD).

The phrase *ḥārōn 'ap̄* (חָרֹן אֶפְרַיִם, fierce anger) literally means 'burning of the nose'—a Hebrew idiom for intense anger. This anthropomorphic language depicts God's righteous indignation against persistent sin. The destruction of 'peaceable habitations' demonstrates that apparent peace and prosperity don't indicate God's approval—Judah enjoyed years of relative peace while accumulating guilt. Sudden judgment shattered their false security. Jesus warned the same: 'when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them' (1 Thessalonians 5:3). Outward peace without inward righteousness is temporary and deceptive.

Historical Context

Archaeological evidence shows that many Judean towns and villages were prosperous before Babylon's invasions. Agriculture flourished, trade continued, life seemed normal. Then came sudden catastrophe—cities burned, populations killed

or enslaved, the land desolate. The contrast between pre-destruction prosperity and post-destruction desolation emphasized that peace and safety apart from covenant faithfulness is illusory. The 'peaceable habitations' proved vulnerable when God's protective hand was withdrawn.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the destruction of 'peaceable habitations' challenge the assumption that prosperity and peace indicate God's approval?
2. What is the difference between genuine peace (shalom from covenant faithfulness) and false peace (temporary stability apart from God)?
3. In what ways might modern Western prosperity create false security similar to Judah's 'peaceable habitations' before judgment?

Interlinear Text

are cut down	habitations	And the peaceable	because	of the fierce	anger
H1826	H4999	H7965	H6440	H2740	H639

הַיְהָ:
of the LORD

H3068

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