

Jeremiah 26:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jehoiakim the king sent men into Egypt, namely, Elnathan the son of Achbor, and certain men with him into Egypt.

Analysis

And Jehoiakim the king sent men into Egypt, namely, Elnathan the son of Achbor, and certain men with him into Egypt (שלח במלך יהוֹיָקִים אֶנְשִׁים מִצְרַיִם) — the verb (שלח) (shalach, 'send') shows determined pursuit. Elnathan (אלֹנָתָן, 'God has given') ironically serves ungodly purposes. He was influential official, possibly the same Elnathan mentioned in Jeremiah 36:12, 25 who tried unsuccessfully to prevent Jehoiakim from burning Jeremiah's scroll.

The extradition mission demonstrates Jehoiakim's paranoia and vindictiveness. He couldn't tolerate dissent even in exile, spending resources to hunt down a fled prophet. This reveals totalitarian impulse in corrupt leadership—not merely suppressing opposition but pursuing it across borders. The king's insecurity drives obsessive control. Herod later demonstrated similar paranoia, killing Bethlehem's infants to eliminate perceived threat (Matthew 2:16). Tyrants fear truth-tellers even at distance.

Historical Context

Extradition treaties existed between ancient Near Eastern kingdoms. Jehoiakim, installed by Egypt as vassal king (2 Kings 23:34), maintained Egyptian connections enabling this mission. Elnathan's willingness to participate shows how political and family loyalties override prophetic truth. The mission's success demonstrates Egypt's cooperation with Judean monarchy despite providing initial refuge.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does Jehoiakim's extradition effort reveal about insecure, corrupt leadership?
2. How do political loyalties sometimes override truth and justice in your context?
3. When have you seen power pursue truth-tellers even into exile or retirement?

Interlinear Text

אָתָּה מִצְרַיִם: אֶנְשָׁיִם בְּתַּחַת לְבָנָי וְשַׁלְּחָנָה
sent the king And Jehoiakim H376 into Egypt H853
H7971 H4428 H3079 H4714

מִצְרַיִם: אֶל אֶת וְיָאָנְשָׁיִם עַכְבָּר וּרְבָנָה אֶלְנָתָן |
namely Elnathan the son of Achbor H376 H854 H413 into Egypt H4714
H494 H1121 H5907

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 36:12 (Kingdom): Then he went down into the king's house, into the scribe's chamber: and, lo, all the princes sat there, even Elishama the scribe, and Delaiah the son of Shemaiah, and Elnathan the son of Achbor, and Gemariah the son of Shaphan, and Zedekiah the son of Hananiah, and all the princes.

2 Kings 22:12 (Kingdom): And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying,

2 Kings 22:14 (Parallel theme): So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asahiah, went unto Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college;) and they communed with her.

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