

Jeremiah 29:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Know that thus saith the LORD of the king that sitteth upon the throne of David, and of all the people that dwelleth in this city, and of your brethren that are not gone forth with you into captivity;

Analysis

Know that thus saith the LORD of the king that sitteth upon the throne of David—Jeremiah now addresses those not exiled, still in Jerusalem under Zedekiah. The phrase **throne of David** (תְּרִון דָּוִיד, kisse David) drips with irony: Zedekiah occupied the physical throne, but the Davidic covenant (2 Sam 7:12-16) was being judged, not honored, by this puppet king's reign.

And of your brethren that are not gone forth with you into captivity—The exiles might have envied those remaining in Jerusalem, but God's word reverses their assumptions. Those 'fortunate' enough to avoid exile faced worse judgment (v. 17). Geography doesn't determine blessing—obedience to God's word does. The exiles who heeded Jeremiah would find life; Jerusalem's remnant who trusted false prophets would find death.

Historical Context

This addresses a critical pastoral issue: the first exiles (597 BC) likely felt cursed while Jerusalem's remnant felt spared. But God's counterintuitive word declared the exiles were the 'good figs' (ch. 24) preserved for restoration, while Jerusalem's inhabitants were 'bad figs' awaiting destruction in 586 BC.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. When have you envied others' 'easier' circumstances, only to discover God's harder path held greater blessing?
2. How does this challenge the prosperity gospel assumption that external comfort indicates God's favor?
3. What does it mean that Jesus sits on David's throne now (Luke 1:32-33)? How did judgment prepare for restoration?

Interlinear Text

בְּיֹשֵׁב
בְּעֵמָה
כָּל
בְּנֵי דָוִיד
בְּנֵי אַלְפָן
אַל

וְאַתָּה בְּעַיר
in this city H2063 and of your brethren H251
אֲחִיךָ מִרְבֵּם H834 לֹא אֲשֶׁר H3808
that are not gone forth H3318

בְּגָזְלָה: אַתָּךְ מִ H854 with you into captivity H1473

