

Jeremiah 29:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will persecute them with the sword, with the famine, and with the pestilence, and will deliver them to be removed to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, and an astonishment, and an hissing, and a reproach, among all the nations whither I have driven them:

Analysis

And I will persecute them with the sword, with the famine, and with the pestilence—The verb רָדַף (radaf, persecute/pursue) portrays God as relentless hunter, not passive observer. The same triad repeats for emphasis: judgment is certain, comprehensive, and covenant-based. God doesn't merely allow consequences—He actively pursues those who persist in covenant rebellion.

And will deliver them to be removed to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, and an astonishment, and an hissing, and a reproach—This fourfold description of exile's horror לִזְעָה לְשָׁמָה לְשָׁמָה וּלְחִרְפָּה (leza'avah leshamah lishreqah ulecherpah) fulfills Deuteronomy 28:25, 37. They become not merely exiled but bywords of divine wrath—living cautionary tales among the nations. Yet remarkably, later prophets transform these same terms: Isaiah 60-62 reverses the curse, and the nations eventually bless themselves by Abraham's seed (Gen 22:18).

Historical Context

This prophecy was fulfilled when Jerusalem fell in 586 BC and survivors scattered to Egypt, Babylon, and beyond. The Diaspora became proverbial (Deut 28:37), yet

paradoxically, this dispersion planted seeds for the gospel's global spread (Acts 2:5-11). God's judgments serve His redemptive purposes.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's active pursuit of rebels unto judgment reveal His holiness and covenant faithfulness?
2. When Israel became a 'hissing and reproach,' how did this prepare the way for Christ to bear that shame on the cross (Isa 53:3)?
3. How can divine judgment serve redemptive purposes? What seeds of gospel were planted through Israel's dispersion?

Interlinear Text

וְיִדְפְּתִּי	ם	אֶחָרֵיךְ	בְּ	בְּרִעַ בְּ	בְּרִעַ בְּ
And I will persecute		them	with the sword	with the famine	
H7291		H310	H2719	H7458	
וְמִלְכָּה וְתָ	לְכָל	לְזִיעַן הָ	וְתָמְתָתִ יִם	וּבְרִעַ בְּ	מְחַלֵּכָה וְתָ
and with the pestilence	and will deliver				to all the kingdoms
H1698		H5414	H2113	H3605	H4467
לְאַל הָ	בְּאַלְמָ	וְלִשְׁמָה	וְלִשְׁרָקָה	וְלִשְׁרָקָה	וְלִתְרָפָה
of the earth	to be a curse	and an astonishment	and an hissing	and an hissing	and a reproach
H776	H423	H8047	H8322	H8322	H2781
בְּכָל	מִ	הַגּוֹן	אֲשֶׁר	הַזְּדִחַת	שָׁמֶן
among all the nations				whither I have driven	
H3605	H1471		H834	H5080	H8033

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 42:18 (Curse): For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; As mine anger and my fury hath been poured forth upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem; so shall my fury be poured forth upon you, when ye shall enter into Egypt: and ye shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach; and ye shall see this place no more.

Jeremiah 15:4 (Kingdom): And I will cause them to be removed into all kingdoms of the earth, because of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah king of Judah, for that which he did in Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 29:8 (Sin): Wherefore the wrath of the LORD was upon Judah and Jerusalem, and he hath delivered them to trouble, to astonishment, and to hissing, as ye see with your eyes.

Jeremiah 34:17 (Kingdom): Therefore thus saith the LORD; Ye have not hearkened unto me, in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother, and every man to his neighbour: behold, I proclaim a liberty for you, saith the LORD, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will make you to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

Jeremiah 24:9 (Kingdom): And I will deliver them to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth for their hurt, to be a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse, in all places whither I shall drive them.

Deuteronomy 28:25 (Kingdom): The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

Isaiah 65:15 (Curse): And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name:

Jeremiah 25:9 (Kingdom): Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.

Ezekiel 12:15 (Parallel theme): And they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall scatter them among the nations, and disperse them in the countries.

Luke 21:24 (Word): And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

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