

Jeremiah 29:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hear ye therefore the word of the LORD, all ye of the captivity, whom I have sent from Jerusalem to Babylon:

Analysis

Hear ye therefore the word of the LORD, all ye of the captivity—After addressing Jerusalem's remnant (vv. 16-19), Jeremiah pivots back to the exiles with the imperative שִׁמְעֵ (shim'u, hear). The phrase **all ye of the captivity** (כל-הַגָּזָעָה, kol-hagolah) encompasses every exiled Jew, not just the false prophets about to be named. All must hear God's judgment on deception in their midst.

Whom I have sent from Jerusalem to Babylon—Again the verb שָׁלַח (shalach, sent)—not 'whom Nebuchadnezzar dragged' but **whom I have sent**. Sovereign divine purpose governs even pagan conquest. This theology appears throughout Scripture: God uses wicked nations as instruments (Hab 1:6, Isa 10:5), then judges them for their cruelty (Isa 10:12). The exiles weren't victims of Babylonian might but recipients of divine discipline with redemptive intent.

Historical Context

The exiles needed this theological framework to avoid despair or false hope. They weren't abandoned by God (He sent them) or permanently judged (the seventy years had purpose). This pastoral balance—acknowledging real judgment while affirming sovereign purpose—sustained faith through exile and enabled the restoration.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding your suffering as God-sent rather than random change how you endure it?
2. What's the difference between fatalism ('everything happens for a reason') and faith in God's sovereignty?
3. How can we hold together God's use of wicked instruments and His judgment of their wickedness?

Interlinear Text

שְׁמַע וְאַתָּה	דְּבָר	יְהִי הָ	כָּל	בְּ גֹלְלָה
H839	Hear	ye therefore the word	of the LORD	all ye of the captivity
H8085		H1697	H3068	H1473

אֲשֶׁר	שֶׁל חִתִּי	מִירוּשָׁלָם	בָּבֶלְהָ:
H834	whom I have sent	from Jerusalem	to Babylon
	H7971	H3389	H894

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 24:5 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good.

Micah 4:10 (References Lord): Be in pain, and labour to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail: for now shalt thou go forth out of the city, and thou shalt dwell in the field, and thou shalt go even to Babylon; there shalt thou be delivered; there the LORD shall redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies.

