

Jeremiah 29:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of them shall be taken up a curse by all the captivity of Judah which are in Babylon, saying, The LORD make thee like Zedekiah and like Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire;

Analysis

And of them shall be taken up a curse by all the captivity of Judah which are in Babylon—The Hebrew **קִלְלָה** (qelalah, curse) refers not to profanity but to invocation of judgment. Ahab and Zedekiah would become proverbial—their names synonymous with divine wrath. The phrase **shall be taken up** (**יִקְרָא**, yiqqach) suggests formal cursing formula.

The LORD make thee like Zedekiah and like Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire—The verb **קָלַח** (qalah, roasted) appears only here, describing execution by burning alive. This horrific death becomes a covenant curse formula: 'May God burn you like those false prophets!' The irony is brutal: they promised deliverance from Babylon; instead, Babylon became their executioner. Those who prophesy peace when God declares judgment will experience the very judgment they denied.

Historical Context

Execution by fire was rare but attested in ancient Near Eastern law for certain offenses (Gen 38:24, Lev 20:14, 21:9). The Babylonians may have burned them for sedition or because their prophecies threatened political stability. Regardless, their deaths vindicated Jeremiah and terrified the exiles into reconsidering false hope.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do false prophets' judgments serve as warnings to those tempted to believe easy messages?
2. What modern equivalents exist to 'roasted in fire'—public exposure of false teachers that becomes proverbial?
3. Why does Scripture preserve even gruesome details like this? What pastoral purpose does it serve?

Interlinear Text

וְלָקָח ח	מֵהֶם	קִלְלָה ה	לְכָל	גָּל וְת		
And of them shall be taken up	H1992	a curse	H3605	by all the captivity		
H3947		H7045		H1546		
יְהוּדָה ה	אֲשֶׁר ר	בְּבָבֶל ל	לֵאמֹר ר	יַשְׁמַךְ	יְהוָה	כַּצִּדְקָתִי הוּא
of Judah	H834	of Babylon	saying	make	The LORD	thee like Zedekiah
H3063		H894	H559	H7760	H3068	H6667
וְכַאֲבָב	אֲשֶׁר	קָלַם	מֶלֶךְ	בְּבָבֶל ל	בְּאֵשׁ:	
and like Ahab	H834	roasted	whom the king	of Babylon	in the fire	
H256		H7033	H4428	H894	H784	

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 3:6 (Parallel theme): And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

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:

Daniel 3:21 (Parallel theme): Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

1 Corinthians 16:22 (References Lord): If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

Genesis 48:20 (Parallel theme): And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

Ruth 4:11 (References Lord): And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Beth-lehem: