

Jeremiah 30:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, the whirlwind of the LORD goeth forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind: it shall fall with pain upon the head of the wicked.

Analysis

Behold, the whirlwind of the LORD goeth forth with fury (סַעַרַת יְהוָה, sa'arat YHWH)—divine judgment depicted as an unstoppable storm. The Hebrew se'arah denotes a violent tempest, the same word used of the whirlwind that took Elijah (2 Kings 2:1). This is not random natural disaster but the directed **fury** (חֵמָה, chemah) of covenant wrath against treaty-breakers.

It shall fall with pain upon the head of the wicked—the storm targets resha'im (רְשָׁעִים), those who actively oppose God's righteous order. The **continuing whirlwind** (מִתְחַלֵּל, mitcholel, 'whirling') emphasizes relentless motion—judgment once launched cannot be recalled. This verse bridges the Book of Consolation's promises (vv. 1-22) with sober warning: restoration doesn't negate accountability for wickedness.

Historical Context

Written during Judah's final years before the 586 BC destruction, Jeremiah 30-33 (the 'Book of Consolation') balances hope with realism. These verses (23-24) echo earlier judgment oracles (23:19-20), reminding the exiles that Babylon's conquest was divine justice, not cosmic accident.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty of God's judgment against wickedness inform your understanding of His mercy toward the repentant?
2. What does it mean that God's wrath is described as purposeful ('continuing') rather than impulsive?
3. How do these verses prevent us from sentimentalizing God's promises of restoration?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּה הַ	סַ עֵר	יְהוָה הַ	חֵמָה	יֵצֵא הַ
H2009	Behold the whirlwind	of the LORD	with fury	goeth forth
	H5591	H3068	H2534	H3318
סַ עֵר	מִתְגֹּרֵר	עַל	רֹאשׁ	רְשָׁעִים
Behold the whirlwind	a continuing	H5921	upon the head	of the wicked
H5591	H1641		H7218	H7563
יִהְיֶה:				
it shall fall with pain				
H2342				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 25:32 (Evil): Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.

Zechariah 9:14 (References Lord): And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south.

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