

Jeremiah 30:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling,
of fear, and not of peace.

Analysis

We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace (קֹל פִּכְדָּה שְׁמָעוּנוּ)—God quotes Israel's terrified cry during 'Jacob's trouble' (v. 7). The Hebrew charadah (trembling, terror) and pachad (dread, fear) intensify the portrait of national panic. The absence of shalom (peace, wholeness) marks judgment's severity.

This trembling voice isn't merely historical (Babylonian invasion) but eschatological—pointing to end-time tribulation. The shift from third person (v. 4) to first person plural ('we have heard') creates prophetic identification with future suffering. Yet this terror introduces God's deliverance (v. 7b-11), following the biblical pattern: travail precedes birth, night precedes dawn, death precedes resurrection.

Historical Context

Reflects the panic of Jerusalem's final siege (588-586 BC) when famine, plague, and Babylonian siege engines brought unprecedented suffering (Lamentations 1-5). Yet the language also anticipates eschatological tribulation before Messianic restoration.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do seasons of trembling and fear prepare you to recognize God's deliverance?
2. What voices of fear in your current circumstances need to be reframed by God's promises beyond the terror?
3. How does the pattern of travail-then-birth help you endure present pain with future hope?

Interlinear Text

שָׁמָעַ עָנוֹ	שְׁמַעַת	עָנוֹת	שְׁמַעַת עָנוֹת
שְׁמַעַת עָנוֹת	שְׁמַעַת	עָנוֹת	שְׁמַעַת עָנוֹת
שְׁמַעַת עָנוֹת	שְׁמַעַת	עָנוֹת	שְׁמַעַת עָנוֹת

שְׁמַעַת עָנוֹת	שְׁמַעַת עָנוֹת	שְׁמַעַת עָנוֹת
שְׁמַעַת עָנוֹת	שְׁמַעַת עָנוֹת	שְׁמַעַת עָנוֹת
שְׁמַעַת עָנוֹת	שְׁמַעַת עָנוֹת	שְׁמַעַת עָנוֹת

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 5:30 (Parallel theme): And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if one look unto the land, behold darkness and sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof.

Amos 8:10 (Parallel theme): And I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; and I will bring up sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day.

