

Jeremiah 32:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thus saith the LORD; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them.

Analysis

Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people (כִּי-אָשֶׁר-הִבָּאתִי אֶל-הַעַם) —(הַזֶּה אֵת כָּל-הַקְּרֻשָּׁה הַגְּדוֹלָה הַזֹּאת) God's parallel sovereignty over calamity and restoration. The Hebrew *ra'ah gedolah* (great evil) refers not to moral evil but catastrophic judgment—the Babylonian conquest and exile. Divine agency is explicit: 'I have brought' (הִבָּאתִ, he'veti), no passive voice or secondary causation.

So will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them (כִּי-אָנֹכִי) (מְבֵיא עַלְיכֶם אֶת-כָּל-הַטּוֹבָה אֲשֶׁר-אָנֹכִי דִּבֶּר עַלְיכֶם) —the same verb *bo* (bring) governs both judgment and salvation. The emphatic *anokhi* (I Myself) stresses divine personal commitment. God's faithfulness to His threats guarantees His faithfulness to His promises—the same covenant character produces both. This verse answers Jeremiah's doubt (v. 25) after his symbolic field purchase.

Historical Context

Spoken in 587 BC during Jerusalem's final siege, with Jeremiah imprisoned (vv. 2-3), this promise seemed absurd—yet God commanded him to buy land in Anathoth as prophetic sign-act. The field deed (vv. 9-15) testified to future restoration when buying property appeared financially insane, demonstrating faith's 'substance of things hoped for' (Hebrews 11:1).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's equal power over disaster and deliverance challenge the view that He controls only 'good' events?
2. What symbolic actions might God call you to perform that testify to His promises despite contrary circumstances?
3. How does this verse's logic—'As surely as judgment came, so restoration will come'—strengthen your confidence in unfulfilled promises?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	H3588	כִּי	H3541	אָמַר	H559	יְהִי	H3068	רֹאשׁ	H834	כִּי	H935	מִבְּ	H413	אָל	H935	
For	thus	saith		the	Lord					Like	as	I	have	brought		
upon	this	people	H2088	אַתָּה	H853	כָּל	H3605	בְּעֵבֶד	H7451	כָּל	H1419	אַתָּה	H2063	כָּל	H3651	
						evil		great		great						
הָיָה	אָמַר	לְפָנֶיךָ	H921	אָמַר	H853	כָּל	H3605	עַלְיכֶם	H2896	הָיָה		אָמַר	H834	אָמַר	H955	
						evil		upon		upon				Like	as	
						great		them		them				have	brought	
						great		all		all						
						upon		the		the						
						the		good		good						

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 31:28 (References Lord): And it shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the LORD.

Matthew 24:35 (Parallel theme): Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

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