

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 (בְּאֲשֶׁר הֵבֵאתִי אֶל־הָעָם) (הִזָּה אֶת כָּל־הַרָעָה 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' (הֵבֵאתִי, he'veti), no passive voice or secondary causation.

So will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them (כִּן אֲנֹכִי) (מָבִיא עֲלֵיהֶם אֶת־כָּל־הַטוֹבָה אֲשֶׁר אֲנֹכִי דִבַּר עֲלֵיהֶם)—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	כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	כַּאֲשֶׁר	מִבְּיַד	אֵל		
H3588	H3541	For thus saith	the LORD	H834	Like as I have brought	H413		
		H559	H3068		H935			
	הָעָם	הַזֶּה	אֶת	כָּל	הַרְבֵּעַ	הַגְּדוֹלָה	הַזֹּאת	כִּי
	upon this people	H2088	H853	H3605	evil	all this great	H2063	H3651
	H5971			H7451	H1419			
אֲנֹכִי	מִבְּיַד	אֶת	עֲלֵיהֶם	כָּל	הַטּוֹבָה			
H595	Like as I have brought	H5921	H853	H3605	upon them all the good			
	H935				H2896			
אֲשֶׁר	אֲנֹכִי	דִבַּר	עֲלֵיהֶם:					
H834	H595	that I have promised	H5921					
		H1696						

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.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org