

Jeremiah 33:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They come to fight with the Chaldeans, but it is to fill them with the dead bodies of men, whom I have slain in mine anger and in my fury, and for all whose wickedness I have hid my face from this city.

Analysis

They come to fight with the Chaldeans, but it is to fill them with the dead bodies of men—The Hebrew construction emphasizes futility: defenders engage Babylon only to provide corpses to fill the demolished houses. **Whom I have slain in mine anger and in my fury** (אשר הקי ת באפי ובעמיה, asher hiketi be'api uvachamati)—God Himself is the ultimate agent of judgment. The Babylonians are merely instruments; YHWH is the Judge.

For all whose wickedness I have hid my face from this city—The hiding of God's face (הסתרת פניהם, histartiy panay) is the ultimate curse, the withdrawal of covenant presence. Their ra'ah (wickedness/evil) caused divine abandonment, inverting the Aaronic blessing where God's face shines upon His people (Numbers 6:25).

Historical Context

The Babylonian siege (588-586 BC) resulted in massive casualties from warfare, famine, and disease. Jeremiah doesn't romanticize resistance—he reveals the theological reality that Judah fought against God Himself. The language of divine anger reflects the covenant curses of Deuteronomy 28-29 now activated through Nebuchadnezzar's army.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God as the ultimate agent behind judgment (not just historical forces) change how you understand catastrophic events?
2. What does it mean for God to 'hide His face' from His people, and what might restore His presence?
3. How does this verse's brutal honesty about divine fury balance with God's love and mercy revealed elsewhere in Scripture?

Interlinear Text

את ומלאמ בָּא יְמָם לְהַלְּכָה בְּפִשְׁעָךְ יְמָם אֶת וְלִמְלָאָם
They come to fight with the Chaldeans but it is to fill H854
H935 H3898 H854 H4390

בְּאָפְּךְ בְּאָפְּךְ בְּאָפְּךְ בְּאָפְּךְ בְּאָפְּךְ
them with the dead bodies of men whom I have slain in mine anger
H6297 H120 H834 H5221 H639

עַל בָּזֶה אֶת מִקְעָעָר וּבְחִמְתָּה
and in my fury I have hid my face from this city H2063 H5921
H2534 H834 H5641 H6440 H5892

כָּל רְעִתָּם
and for all whose wickedness H7451
H3605

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 8:17 (Parallel theme): And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.

Jeremiah 32:5 (Parallel theme): And he shall lead Zedekiah to Babylon, and there shall he be until I visit him, saith the LORD: though ye fight with the Chaldeans, ye shall not prosper.

Jeremiah 21:10 (Evil): For I have set my face against this city for evil, and not for good, saith the LORD: it shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire.

Isaiah 64:7 (Parallel theme): And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

Deuteronomy 31:17 (Evil): Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?

Micah 3:4 (Parallel theme): Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.
