

Jeremiah 34:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the LORD; Ye have not hearkened unto me, in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother, and every man to his neighbour: behold, I proclaim a liberty for you, saith the LORD, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will make you to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

Analysis

This is measure-for-measure justice. Judah refused to proclaim liberty to slaves (violating covenant law), so God proclaims liberty to sword, pestilence, and famine to devour them. The Hebrew word 'deror' (liberty/freedom) is used ironically - they'll have 'freedom' to be destroyed. God's judgment often gives people what they desired but with devastating consequences.

Historical Context

This reversal of blessing into curse fulfills Deuteronomy's covenant warnings (Deut 28). Covenant breaking brings covenant curses.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God sometimes give us what we think we want as judgment?
2. What does this teach about the seriousness of covenant obligations?

Interlinear Text

לְכָה אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים לֹא שָׁמַעַת מִ
H3651 H3541 Therefore thus saith the LORD H859 H3808 Ye have not hearkened
H559 H3068 H8085
אַל קְרָא דָר וָרָא וְאַל לֹא חִי אַל
H413 behold I proclaim a liberty and every man to his brother and every man
H7121 H1865 H376 H251 H376
לְרָע הַזֶּה קְרָא דָר וָרָא נָאָם
to his neighbour behold I proclaim a liberty for you saith
H7453 H2005 H7121 H1865 H5002
אַל בְּכָר אַל בְּכָר אַל בְּכָר אַל בְּכָר
the LORD H413 to the sword H413 to the pestilence H413 and to the famine
H3068 H2719 H1698 H7458
וְאַתֶּם מַלְכִים וְתִּגְתְּתִּתִּי לְכָל לְכָל עַה אֲתֶכֶם
and I will make H853 H2113 H3605 into all the kingdoms of the earth
H5414 H4467 H776

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 7:2 (Parallel theme): For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Galatians 6:7 (Parallel theme): Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Jeremiah 29:18 (Kingdom): And I will persecute them with the sword, with the famine, and with the pestilence, and will deliver them to be removed to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, and an astonishment, and an hissing, and a reproach, among all the nations whither I have driven them:

Deuteronomy 28:25 (Kingdom): The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

Jeremiah 15:4 (Kingdom): And I will cause them to be removed into all kingdoms of the earth, because of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah king of Judah, for that which he did in Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 32:24 (Word): Behold the mounts, they are come unto the city to take it; and the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans, that fight against it, because of the sword, and of the famine, and of the pestilence: and what thou hast spoken is come to pass; and, behold, thou seest it.

Deuteronomy 28:64 (References Lord): And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

James 2:13 (Parallel theme): For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

Daniel 6:24 (Kingdom): And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

Esther 7:10 (Kingdom): So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.