

Jeremiah 41:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then arose Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and the ten men that were with him, and smote Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan with the sword, and slew him, whom the king of Babylon had made governor over the land.

Analysis

Ishmael, of royal blood, assassinates Gedaliah and his supporters 'with the sword.' This treachery destroys the peaceful remnant community Gedaliah was building. Evil persists even after judgment falls. Ishmael's alliance with Ammon (40:14) shows political intrigue continued amid the ruins. Human sin complicates even God's disciplinary work.

Historical Context

Ishmael's assassination of Gedaliah was apparently motivated by royal jealousy and Ammonite political interests. This act brought more disaster to the already devastated remnant.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does persistent human evil complicate God's redemptive purposes?
 2. What does this assassination teach about the ongoing nature of spiritual warfare?

Interlinear Text

בָּאָשָׁר	בָּאָשָׁר	יָמָן	וְעַשְׁ	רָת	גַּתְנִי	ה	בָּנִי	וְשָׁמָעַ	אֵל	וְקָם
Then arose	Ishmael	the son	of Nethaniah	and the ten						
H6965	H3458	H1121	H5418	H6235					H376	H834

הַפְּקָד יְהִי מִתְּמַמָּה בְּרַב שָׁפָן אֲשֶׁר אַתְּ וְאֶתְּנָהָר הַפְּקָד יְהִי מִתְּמַמָּה בְּרַב שָׁפָן אֲשֶׁר אַתְּ וְאֶתְּנָהָר

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 25:25 (Parallel theme): But it came to pass in the seventh month, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the seed royal, came, and ten men with him, and smote Gedaliah, that he died, and the Jews and the Chaldees that were with him at Mizpah.

Jeremiah 40:5 (Kingdom): Now while he was not yet gone back, he said, Go back also to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon hath made governor over the cities of Judah, and dwell with him among the people: or go wheresoever it seemeth convenient unto thee to go. So the captain of the guard gave him victuals and a reward, and let him go.

