

Jeremiah 42:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore know certainly that ye shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, in the place whither ye desire to go and to sojourn.

Analysis

Now therefore know certainly (וְנִדְעָה יָדְעָה תִּדְעוּ)—emphatic construction, literally 'knowing, you shall know'—absolute certainty, no ambiguity. The dual imperative intensifies urgency. **That ye shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence** (כִּי בַחֲרֹב בָּרָעָב וּבַדָּבָר תָּמֹתוּ)—the covenant curse triad (Deuteronomy 28:21-22, Jeremiah 14:12, 21:7, 24:10, Ezekiel 6:11-12) reverses exodus blessing. What they fear in Judah will pursue them to Egypt.

In the place whither ye desire to go and to sojourn (בַּמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־אַתֶּם חֹפְצִים לָבוֹא)—biting irony. They 'desire' (chafetzim, חֹפְצִים) Egypt as refuge, using the verb of delight and pleasure. Egypt symbolizes return to bondage (reversal of exodus), and God's prohibition echoes Deuteronomy 17:16: 'You shall not return that way again.' Their desired asylum becomes their tomb (43:11, 44:14, 27-28). Only escapees who survive will return, testifying whose word proved true (44:28).

Historical Context

Egypt had long tempted Judah as political ally against Mesopotamian powers (Isaiah 30:1-7, 31:1-3, Ezekiel 17:15). Pharaoh Hophra (589-570 BC) briefly raised Babylon's siege (37:5-11), encouraging pro-Egypt faction. After Jerusalem's fall, fleeing to Egypt seemed pragmatic—but violated God's explicit command. Chapter 44 records the tragic fulfillment: the remnant dies in Egypt, even worshipping Egyptian deities (Queen of Heaven, 44:15-19).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. When has 'safety' in disobedience proven more dangerous than risk in obedience?
2. How does returning to 'Egypt' (pre-redemption bondage) symbolize covenant community's ultimate apostasy?
3. What does this verse teach about the futility of seeking security apart from God's ordained path?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה

H6258

תָּדַע וְ

Now therefore know

H3045

תָּדַע וְ

Now therefore know

H3045

כִּי בַחַרְבַּ

H3588

by the sword

H2719

בַּכָּעַב

by the famine

H7458

וּבַדָּבָר

and by the pestilence

H1698

תָּמּוּ וְתוּ

that ye shall die

H4191

אֲשֶׁר בַּמָּקוֹם

in the place

H4725

H834

חַפְצֶיךָ מִ

whither ye desire

H2654

לָבֹא

to go

H935

לָגוּר

and to sojourn

H1481

שָׁמָּה

H8033

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 42:17 (Word): So shall it be with all the men that set their faces to go into Egypt to sojourn there; they shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: and none of them shall remain or escape from the evil that I will bring upon them.

Ezekiel 6:11 (Word): Thus saith the Lord GOD; Smite with thine hand, and stamp with thy foot, and say, Alas for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! for they shall fall by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence.

Hosea 9:6 (Parallel theme): For, lo, they are gone because of destruction: Egypt shall gather them up, Memphis shall bury them: the pleasant places for their silver, nettles shall possess them: thorns shall be in their tabernacles.

Jeremiah 43:11 (Word): And when he cometh, he shall smite the land of Egypt, and deliver such as are for death to death; and such as are for captivity to captivity; and such as are for the sword to the sword.

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