

# 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** (וְיַדְעָה יְדֻעַתְּךָ) —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 בְּתִיבְרָב בְּרַעַב וּבְזָבָר תִּמְתֹהֵר) —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** (בְּמָקוֹם אֲשֶׁר-אַתֶּם חָפְצִים לְבוֹא) —biting irony. They 'desire' (chafetzim, חָפְצִים) 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 worshiping Egyptian deities (Queen of Heaven, 44:15-19).

## Related Passages

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## **Psalm 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

בְּנֵי רֹבֶּה	תִּדְעֵוּ	תִּדְעֵוּ	כִּי	בְּנֵי רֹבֶּה
H6258	<b>Now therefore know</b>	<b>Now therefore know</b>	H3588	<b>by the sword</b>

לְגֹרֶר	לְבָבָךְ	לְפָאָתָה	מִשְׁמָךְ
whither ye desire	to go	and to sojourn	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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