

Jeremiah 43:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah in Tahpanhes, saying,

Analysis

Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah in Tahpanhes—Even in Egypt, in the midst of a rebellious community that had forcibly taken him there, Jeremiah continued to receive divine revelation. The prophetic formula **the word of the LORD came** (vayehi devar-YHWH, וַיְהִי דְבָר־יְהוָה) indicates authentic prophetic reception, identical to the formula used throughout Jeremiah's ministry (1:4, 11, 13; 2:1; 13:3, 8; 16:1; 18:5). God's word was not limited to the promised land—He spoke in Egypt just as He had spoken to the exiles in Babylon (Jeremiah 29).

Tahpanhes (תַּחְפָּנֵה, also spelled Tehaphnehes) was a major Egyptian frontier fortress in the eastern Nile delta, serving as Pharaoh's border garrison and administrative center. The name appears in Egyptian as Daphnae. By settling there, the remnant placed themselves under Pharaoh's authority rather than Yahweh's covenant protection. The location is significant: on Egypt's border with Sinai, it was the first major Egyptian city encountered when entering from Canaan—symbolically, the nearest point to reversing the Exodus.

That God continued to speak through Jeremiah in Tahpanhes demonstrates His sovereignty and faithfulness. The people could flee covenant land, but they could not escape covenant relationship. God pursued them even in their rebellion, sending prophetic word calling them to recognize their error.

Historical Context

Tahpanhes (modern Tell Defenneh) was a strategic fortress-city during Egypt's 26th Dynasty under Pharaoh Hophra (Apries, 589-570 BC). Archaeological excavations by Flinders Petrie (1886) uncovered the fortress remains, including what may be 'Pharaoh's house' mentioned in verse 9. Greek mercenaries were stationed there, and it served as a major administrative center. The Jewish refugee community settled in this militarized border city, perhaps hoping for Egyptian protection against Babylon. Historical records indicate Nebuchadnezzar invaded Egypt around 568 BC (Josephus), fulfilling Jeremiah's prophecies (43:10-13; 46:13-26). Tahpanhes was likely among the cities conquered. Ezekiel also prophesied against Tahpanhes, predicting its destruction (Ezekiel 30:18). The site was later known to Greeks as Daphne and maintained Jewish communities into the Hellenistic period, though the original refugee community perished as Jeremiah prophesied (42:17).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does God's continued revelation to Jeremiah in Egypt teach about His sovereignty and presence even when His people flee His will?
2. How does the location Tahpanhes—Egypt's border fortress—symbolize the reversal of the Exodus?
3. In what ways does God pursue us with His word even when we flee to places of disobedience?

Interlinear Text

בְּמִצְפָּתָח סֵגְנָה יְהֹוָה אֶל יְהֹוָה
H1961 Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah in Tahpanhes
H1697 H3068 H413 H3414 H8471

לֹא מִרְאֵן

saying

H559

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