

Jeremiah 44:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will set my face against you for evil, and to cut off all Judah.

Analysis

Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold—the triple-formula messenger introduction (Yahweh, God of hosts, God of Israel) plus the attention particle *hinnēh* (behold) creates maximum solemnity for announcing irrevocable judgment. **I will set my face against you for evil** (*hinnənî śām pānay bākem lərā'â*)—the anthropomorphic phrase *śūm pānîm* (set face) typically means determined hostile intention (Leviticus 17:10, 20:3-6; Ezekiel 14:8). *Lərā'â* (for evil, for disaster) shows the purpose: not correction but destruction.

And to cut off all Judah (*ûləhakrît 'et-kol-yəhûdâ*)—the Hiphil infinitive *ləhakrît* (to cut off, exterminate) plus *kol* (all) signals total judgment. The term *kārat* in the Hiphil is covenant-lawsuit vocabulary, meaning to execute covenant curses. This reverses God's face from blessing (Numbers 6:24-26: 'The LORD make his face shine upon thee') to curse. The phrase 'all Judah' focuses on the Egyptian community specifically—they represent the final remnant, and their persistent idolatry guarantees extinction. No remnant will remain from the remnant.

Historical Context

This pronouncement of total annihilation targets the Egyptian Jewish community specifically. While some Jews survived in Babylon and eventually returned (537 BC onward), the Egyptian community apparently perished or assimilated, with no record of return. This contrasts sharply with the Babylonian exiles whom God

promised to restore (Jeremiah 29:10-14). Geography didn't determine fate—obedience did.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does it mean for God to 'set His face against' someone versus 'making His face shine upon' them?
2. How does the destruction of the Egyptian remnant demonstrate that privilege and pedigree cannot substitute for obedience?
3. What contemporary groups might be forfeiting God's protection through persistent disobedience despite clear warnings?

Interlinear Text

ישָׁרָא לְ אֱלֹהִים צָבָאֹת לְ אֱלֹהִים יִשְׂרָאֵל
H3651 H3541 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts the God of Israel
H559 H3068 H6635 H430 H3478

אֶת וְלֹפֶךְ יְתִת לְכַע הַנְּגָעִים שְׁמָמִים גָּפָן יְבַכֵּם לְכַע הַנְּגָעִים אֶת וְלֹפֶךְ יְתִת
H2005 Behold I will set my face against you for evil and to cut off H853
H7760 H6440 H0 H7451 H3772

כָּל יְהוּדָה
H3605 all Judah
H3063

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 21:10 (Evil): For I have set my face against this city for evil, and not for good, saith the LORD: it shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire.

Amos 9:4 (Evil): And though they go into captivity before their enemies, thence will I command the sword, and it shall slay them: and I will set mine eyes upon them for evil, and not for good.

Psalms 34:16 (Evil): The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

Leviticus 26:17 (Parallel theme): And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.

Leviticus 17:10 (References Israel): And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people.

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