

Jeremiah 44:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I will punish them that dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence:

Analysis

I will punish them that dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem—(וְפָקַדְתִּי עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶרְצָמָצְנִים) The verb paqad means to visit, attend to, or reckon with, often used for divine judgment. God's covenantal justice is geographically impartial: fleeing to Egypt cannot evade His hand.

The triple judgment formula—**by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence**—(בְּחֶרֶב בְּצָרָב וּבְדָבָר) echoes Jeremiah's consistent warning throughout his ministry (14:12, 21:7, 24:10). The remnant's disobedience in fleeing to Egypt despite God's explicit prohibition (42:15-19) now brings the very destruction they sought to escape. Egypt, symbol of pre-Exodus bondage, becomes their final trap.

Historical Context

After Jerusalem's fall (586 BC), the Jewish remnant forcibly took Jeremiah to Egypt (43:6-7), settling in Migdol, Tahpanhes, Memphis, and Pathros (southern Egypt). They believed geographic distance from Judah would spare them from Babylon's reach, but Nebuchadnezzar invaded Egypt in 568/567 BC, fulfilling this prophecy.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What 'Egypt' do you run to when seeking security apart from God's will?
2. How does this passage expose the futility of geographic solutions to spiritual problems?
3. Why does disobedience to clear divine instruction inevitably bring the judgment one seeks to avoid?

Interlinear Text

פָּאֵשׁ רַמְצָבִים בָּאָצָז פְּקֻדָּתִי
For I will punish them that dwell in the land of Egypt

H6485 H5921 H3427 H776 H4714 H834

בְּרִעָב בְּכַרְעָל מִרְשָׁלָל פְּקֻדָּתִי
For I will punish Jerusalem by the sword by the famine

H6485 H5921 H3389 H2719 H7458

וּבְדָבָר: וּבְדָבָר:
and by the pestilence

H1698

Additional Cross-References

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.

Jeremiah 11:22 (Word): Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will punish them: the young men shall die by the sword; their sons and their daughters shall die by famine: