

Jeremiah 44:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So that none of the remnant of Judah, which are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall escape or remain, that they should return into the land of Judah, to the which they have a desire to return to dwell there: for none shall return but such as shall escape.

Analysis

None of the remnant of Judah...shall escape or remain (וְלֹא־יִהְיֶה פָּלִיט וְשָׂרִיד)—The paired terms paliyt (פָּלִיט, escapee) and sarid (שָׂרִיד, survivor) form a comprehensive negation. Those who thought themselves 'remnant' (שְׂאֵרִית, she'erit) by surviving Jerusalem's destruction will themselves become extinct through their rebellion.

They have a desire to return (מִנְשָׁאִים אֶת־נַפְשָׁם לָשׁוּב)—literally "lifting up their soul to return," expressing intense longing. The tragedy: they will desire the land of promise but never possess it, having forfeited it through disobedience. Only a tiny remnant who escape (פְּלִיטִים, peleytim)—likely those who didn't participate in idolatry—will return, fulfilling God's sovereign preservation of a faithful seed.

Historical Context

The Jewish community in Egypt grew substantially in the post-exilic period, eventually centered in Alexandria. However, the specific generation that fled to Egypt in 586 BC perished there, unable to participate in the return under Cyrus (538 BC). Historical records suggest few if any from this rebellious group survived to see Judah again.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does presuming on remnant status while living in disobedience reflect modern church complacency?
2. What does 'lifting up your soul' toward something reveal about the relationship between desire and obedience?
3. Why does God preserve a remnant even within a judged community?

Interlinear Text

א	יְהִי הַ	פְּלִטִים:	וְשָׂרִיד	לְשֹׂאֵר יֵת
H3808	H1961	there shall escape	or remain	So that none of the remnant
		H6412	H8300	H7611

הַ	יְהוּדָה	הַבָּאִים	לְגֹרֹם	שָׁם	אֶל הָאָרֶץ	מִצְרָיִם
	of Judah	which are gone	to sojourn	H8033	into the land	of Egypt
	H3063	H935	H1481		H776	H4714

וְיָשׁוּבּוּ	אֶל הָאָרֶץ	יְהוּדָה	אֲשֶׁר	הָאָרֶץ
that they should return	into the land	of Judah	H834	H1992
H7725	H776	H3063		

מִנְּשָׂאֵי יָם	אֶת	נַפְשָׁם	וְיָשׁוּבּוּ	לְשֹׂאֵר בֵּית	שָׁם
to the which they have	H853	a desire	that they should return	to dwell	H8033
H5375		H5315	H7725	H3427	

כִּי	לֹא	וְיָשׁוּבּוּ	כִּי	אִם	פְּלִטִים:
H3588	H3808	that they should return	H3588	H518	there shall escape
		H7725			H6412

Additional Cross-References

Romans 9:27 (Parallel theme): Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:

Isaiah 4:2 (Parallel theme): In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

Isaiah 10:20 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

Jeremiah 42:17 (References Egypt): 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.