

Jeremiah 44:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore hear ye the word of the LORD, all Judah that dwell in the land of Egypt; Behold, I have sworn by my great name, saith the LORD, that my name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, The Lord GOD liveth.

Analysis

I have sworn by my great name (נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי בִשְׁמִי הַגָּדוֹל)—God invokes His own name as witness, the highest possible oath since nothing greater exists (Hebrews 6:13). The shem gadol (great name) represents His essential character and reputation—the very name the exiles profaned through idolatry.

My name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah—The divine decree eliminates covenant privilege: no Egyptian Jew would validly invoke Yahweh's name in oath or worship. **The Lord GOD liveth** (חִי אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה) was the standard oath formula (Ruth 3:13, 1 Samuel 14:39)—now forbidden. This judgment reverses blessing, transforming covenant people into effective pagans unable to call on God's name.

Historical Context

This oath-judgment finds partial fulfillment in the extinction of the Egyptian Jewish exile community. Unlike Babylonian exiles who returned under Ezra/Nehemiah, Egyptian refugees assimilated and disappeared from redemptive history. The Elephantine papyri (5th century BC) show syncretistic worship combining Yahweh with pagan deities.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does God swearing by His own name reveal about the absolute certainty of His judgments?
2. How does losing the privilege to invoke God's name represent ultimate covenant exclusion?
3. In what ways might modern believers take lightly the privilege of calling on the Lord's name?

Interlinear Text

הַיִּשְׁבִּי יִם יְהוּדָה ה כָּל יְהוָה ה דְּבַר שְׁמַע ו לָכֵן
H3605 H3063 H3427 H3605 H3068 H1697 H8085 H3651
all Judah that dwell of the LORD ye the word Therefore hear

הַגָּדוֹל שְׁמִי נִשְׁבַּע עֲתִי הִנֵּנִי מִצְרַיִם: אֶרֶץ
H1419 H8034 H7650 H2005 H4714 H776
by my great name Behold I have sworn of Egypt in all the land

נִקְרָא אֵל שְׁמִי עוֹד יְהִיָּה אִם יְהוָה ה אֵלֵּי ר
H7121 H8034 H5750 H1961 H518 H3068 H559
shall no more be named name H5750 H1961 H518 of the LORD saith

יְהוָה ה אֲדֹנָי חִי אֵלֵּי ר יְהוּדָה ה אֶל יִשׁ כָּל בֶּפֶי יוֹ
H3069 H136 H2416 H559 H3063 H376 H3605 H6310
GOD The Lord liveth saith all Judah of any man in the mouth

מִצְרַיִם: אֶרֶץ בְּכָל
H4714 H776 H3605
of Egypt in all the land

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 6:13 (References God): For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself,

Psalms 50:16 (References God): But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth?

Genesis 22:16 (References Lord): And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

Ezekiel 20:39 (References God): As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols.

Jeremiah 5:2 (References Lord): And though they say, The LORD liveth; surely they swear falsely.

Jeremiah 4:2 (References Lord): And thou shalt swear, The LORD liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory.

Amos 6:8 (References God): The Lord GOD hath sworn by himself, saith the LORD the God of hosts, I abhor the excellency of Jacob, and hate his palaces: therefore will I deliver up the city with all that is therein.