

Jeremiah 44:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I will watch over them for evil, and not for good: and all the men of Judah that are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine, until there be an end of them.

Analysis

I will watch over them for evil, and not for good (שֶׁקֶד אֲנִי עֲלֵיהֶם לרָעָה וְלֹא לטוֹבָה) —The verb shoqed (שֶׁקֶד) means 'watching vigilantly,' used of God's watchful care for Israel (Jeremiah 1:12, 31:28). Here the divine watchfulness inverts from blessing to curse—God actively superintends their destruction. Compare Amos 9:4: 'I will set mine eyes upon them for evil.'

Consumed by the sword and by the famine—The covenant curses of Deuteronomy 28:22, 48-51 follow the unfaithful even into Egypt. Geographic escape provides no refuge from covenant judgment. **Until there be an end of them** (עַד־כְּלִימָתָם) signals complete consumption, the Hebrew kalah meaning utter termination.

Historical Context

Egypt, Israel's traditional false refuge (Isaiah 30:1-3, 31:1), proves a deathtrap rather than sanctuary. Babylonian forces under Nebuchadnezzar invaded Egypt circa 568 BC (Jeremiah 43:8-13), fulfilling this prophecy. Archaeological evidence shows destruction of Egyptian border settlements during this period.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's 'watching for evil' demonstrate active judgment rather than mere abandonment?
2. What modern 'Egypt's' do people flee to for security apart from God's will?
3. Why is there no geographic escape from covenant accountability before God?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּנִי י	שֶׁקֶד ד	עָלֵיהֶם	לִרְעָה	וְלֹא	לְטוֹבָה
H2005	Behold I will watch	H5921	over them for evil	H3808	and not for good
	H8245		H7451		H2896
וְתִמּוּ	כָּל	אֶת יֹשְׁ	אֶשׁ רַ	בְּאֶרֶץ	
shall be consumed	H3605	and all the men	of Judah	H834	that are in the land
H8552		H376	H3063		H776
מִצֵּרֵי מִצְרַיִם	בְּחֶרֶב	וּבָרָעָב	עַד	כָּלֹתָם:	
of Egypt	by the sword	and by the famine	H5704	until there be an end	
H4714	H2719	H7458		H3615	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 31:28 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 1:10 (Parallel theme): See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

2 Kings 21:14 (Parallel theme): And I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies;

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