

Jeremiah 44:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And this shall be a sign unto you, saith the LORD, that I will punish you in this place, that ye may know that my words shall surely stand against you for evil:

Analysis

And this shall be a sign unto you, saith the LORD (וְזֹאת־לָכֶם הָאוֹת נְאֻם־יְהוָה)—an authenticating ot (אוֹת, sign), proving God's threatened judgment will certainly occur. Biblical 'signs' confirm prophetic authority (Deuteronomy 18:21-22, 1 Samuel 2:34, Isaiah 7:14, 37:30). Here God graciously provides evidence before the fact, eliminating later claims that disaster was random rather than covenantal. **That I will punish you in this place** (כִּי־פִקֹּד אֶנֶכִּי עֲלֵיכֶם בְּמִקְוֹם הַזֶּה)—Egypt, their chosen refuge, becomes the execution site for covenant curses.

That ye may know that My words shall surely stand against you for evil (לְמַעַן תֵּדָעוּ כִּי קוֹם יִקְוִמוּ דְבָרֵי עֲלֵיכֶם לְרָעָה)—emphatic Hebrew construction: qom yaqumu (standing, they shall stand), doubling the verb for certainty. The word ra'ah (evil/calamity) echoes the covenant curse terminology. God's reputation is at stake—His words must prove reliable, whether blessing or curse. Tragically, only the curse will convince them His word is true.

Historical Context

This oracle (580s BC) came after the remnant rejected Jeremiah's word and forcibly took him to Egypt (43:6-7), settling in Tahpanhes, Migdol, Memphis, and Pathros (44:1). They resumed pagan worship, particularly of the 'Queen of Heaven' (likely Ishtar/Astarte, 44:17-19), claiming idolatry brought prosperity. This verse

warns them before Babylon's invasion that their doom is sealed—fulfilled when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Egypt (568/7 BC).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Why does God provide signs/evidence of coming judgment—what does this reveal about His desire for people to recognize His justice?
2. What does it mean that God's words 'stand against you for evil'—how does divine word become agent of judgment?
3. When have you seen God's word prove true through painful consequences, forcing recognition of His authority?

Interlinear Text

וְזֹאת לָכֵן הָאֵת נֹאמַר יְהוָה כִּי
H2063 H0 And this shall be a sign unto you saith the LORD H3588
H226 H5002 H3068

כִּי אֶפְקֹד בְּמָקוֹם אֲנִי עֲלֶיךָ וְלֹא עֵן
that I will punish H589 H5921 you in this place H2088 H4616
H6485 H4725

כִּי יֵדַע וְיֵדַע וְיֵדַע וְיֵדַע וְיֵדַע וְיֵדַע
that ye may know H3588 shall surely shall surely that my words H5921
H3045 H6965 H6965 H1697

לְרָעָה:
against you for evil
H7451

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 19:21 (References Lord): There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

Isaiah 40:8 (Word): The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Jeremiah 44:30 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give Pharaoh-hophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies, and into the hand of them that seek his life; as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, his enemy, and that sought his life.