

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־לְכֶם פָּאוֹת נָאמְנִיהָ)—an authenticating ot (נִזְעָקָה, 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־פְּקַד אֶנְכֶם עַלְכֶם בָּמָקוּם 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 תִּדְעָו פִּי קֹם עַלְכֶם דְּבָרַי עַלְכֶם לְכָעָה)—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

לֹכֶד מִזְאַת

H2063

H0

פָּאוֹת

And this shall be a sign

H226

תְּאַמֵּן

unto you saith

H5002

כִּי יְהִי הַ

the LORD

H3588

כִּי

H3068

לֹמַעַן

that I will punish

H6485

H589

בְּמִקְרָב

you in this place

בְּמִקְרָב

H2088

בְּמִקְרָב

H4616

עַלְיָכֶם

that my words

H4725

עַלְיָכֶם

H5921

יְדַעַת

that ye may know

H3045

כִּי

H3588

יְהִי מִתְּהֻרְרָה

H6965

יְהִי מִתְּהֻרְרָה

H6965

דְּבָרִים

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.