

Jeremiah 46:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Declare ye in Egypt, and publish in Migdol, and publish in Noph and in Tahpanhes: say ye, Stand fast, and prepare thee; for the sword shall devour round about thee.

Analysis

Declare ye in Egypt, and publish in Migdol, and publish in Noph and in Tahpanhes—The command to higgidu (הִגִּידו, "declare") and hashmi'u (הַשְׁמִיעוּ, "publish/proclaim") emphasizes public, unavoidable announcement. Jeremiah names specific Egyptian cities: Migdol (מִגְדָּל, fortress in the eastern Nile delta), Noph (נוֹפַ, Memphis, ancient capital), and Tahpanhes (תַּפְּחָנֵה, Greek Daphne, border fortress where Jeremiah himself was later taken, 43:7-9). Geographic specificity proves prophecy's authenticity and ensures no Egyptian region escapes the warning.

The message is ominous: **Stand fast, and prepare thee; for the sword shall devour round about thee.** The imperatives hiyyatsev (הִיְצָבֵ, "stand fast/take your position") and hakin (הִכְנֵ, "prepare") command military readiness, yet the reason given—ki akhelah khorev (כִּי אֲכַלָּה חֶרֶב, "the sword shall devour")—reveals such preparation is futile. The sword, representing Babylon's military might as God's instrument, will consume (akal, אֲכַל, eat/devour) everything. Defensive readiness cannot prevent divinely ordained judgment.

Historical Context

These cities represented Egypt's military and political centers. Migdol guarded the northeastern border, Memphis was the ancient capital controlling Middle Egypt, and Tahpanhes (modern Tell Defenneh) was a strategic fortress. Ironically,

Jeremiah was forcibly taken to Tahpanhes after Jerusalem's fall (Jeremiah 43), where he prophesied Nebuchadnezzar would set his throne at that very location (43:8-13). Archaeological excavation at Tell Defenneh has uncovered a substantial fortress from this period, confirming the biblical record.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does the command to publicly declare judgment teach about God's fairness in giving warning?
2. How does naming specific cities demonstrate the certainty and specificity of biblical prophecy?
3. When God commands military preparation knowing it will fail, what does this reveal about human attempts to thwart His purposes?

Interlinear Text

בָּנָּי וְיִהְשָׁמֶן יְעַזֵּן בְּמִגְדָּל וְלִבְשָׁתָם יְעַזֵּן בְּמִצְרָיִם הַגְּדוֹלָה

Declare ye in Egypt and publish in Migdal and publish in Noph

H5046

H4714

H8085

H4024

H8085

H5297

אָכַל הַגְּדוֹלָה לְגַדְעָה וְתַחַפְנָה סָבִיבָה

and in Tahpanhes say ye Stand fast and prepare shall devour

H8471

H559

H3320

H3559

H0

H3588

H398

סָבִיבָה: כִּי כִּי לְגַדְעָה

thee for the sword round about

H2719

H5439

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 44:1 (Word): The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews which dwell in the land of Egypt, which dwell at Migdal, and at Tahpanhes, and at Noph, and in the country of Pathros, saying,

Jeremiah 46:10 (Word): For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.

Isaiah 1:20 (Word): But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Jeremiah 2:30 (Word): In vain have I smitten your children; they received no correction: your own sword hath devoured your prophets, like a destroying lion.

Nahum 2:13 (Word): Behold, I am against thee, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will burn her chariots in the smoke, and the sword shall devour thy young lions: and I will cut off thy prey from the earth, and the voice of thy messengers shall no more be heard.