

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 (הִגִּידוּ, "declare") and hashmi'u (הַשְׁמִיעוּ, "publish/proclaim") emphasizes public, unavoidable announcement. Jeremiah names specific Egyptian cities: Migdol (מִגְדוֹל, fortress in the eastern Nile delta), Noph (נֹפִי, Memphis, ancient capital), and Tahpanhes (תַּחְפַּנְחֶס, 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 hityatsev (הִתְיַצֵּב, "stand fast/take your position") and hakin (הָכֵן, "prepare") command military readiness, yet the reason given—ki akhelah kherev (כִּי אֲכָלָה חֶרֶב, "the sword shall devour")—reveals such preparation is futile. The sword, representing Babylon's military might as God's instrument, will consume (akal, אָכַל, 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

הַגִּידוּ	בְּמִצְרַיִם	וְהִשְׁמַעְתֶּם	בְּמִגְדֹּל	וְהִשְׁמַעְתֶּם	בְּנֹפֶחַ
Declare	ye in Egypt	and publish	in Migdol	and publish	in Noph
H5046	H4714	H8085	H4024	H8085	H5297
וּבְתַחְפְּנֵחַ	אָמַר ו	הִתְיַצֵּב	וְהִכֵּן	לְךָ	כִּי
and in Tahpanhes	say	ye Stand fast	and prepare	H0	H3588
H8471	H559	H3320	H3559		
					שָׁלֹחַ
					H398
הָרֶב	סְבִיבָיוֹ:				
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 Migdol, 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.