

Jeremiah 46:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will deliver them into the hand of those that seek their lives, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of his servants: and afterward it shall be inhabited, as in the days of old, saith the LORD.

Analysis

And I will deliver them into the hand of those that seek their lives, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon (וְנִתְּנוּ בְיָד מְבַקְשֵׁי נַפְשָׁם וּבְיָד) (נְבוּכַדְרֶאצַּר מֶלֶךְ-בָּבֶל)—The Hebrew mevaqqeshey nafsham (seekers of their life/soul) intensifies the threat beyond mere conquest to annihilation. Yet astonishingly, **and afterward it shall be inhabited, as in the days of old, saith the LORD** (וְאַחֲרָיו יֵשְׁבוּ כִּימֵי קֶדֶם)—tishkon kimey qedem promises restoration.

This gracious conclusion mirrors God's treatment of Moab and Ammon (48:47, 49:6). Even pagan nations receive post-judgment mercy, demonstrating that God's wrath serves remedial, not merely punitive, purposes. Egypt did indeed recover, later becoming home to a significant Jewish diaspora (including Jeremiah himself) and early Christianity's intellectual center in Alexandria.

Historical Context

Nebuchadnezzar (Nebuchadrezzar in Hebrew) invaded Egypt in 568 BC. Egypt subsequently recovered, though never regaining its ancient glory. The Persian conquest (525 BC) followed, then Hellenistic rule. Alexandria became a major center of Jewish scholarship (producing the Septuagint) and early Christian theology.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise of restoration after judgment reveal His ultimate purposes?
2. What does Egypt's recovery teach about God's mercy extending even to pagan nations?
3. How should the certainty of both judgment and restoration shape our understanding of divine justice?

Interlinear Text

וְנִתַּתִּי יָם	וְכִיד	מִבְּקֶשׁ י	נַפְשָׁם	וְכִיד		
And I will deliver	and into the hand	of those that seek	their lives	and into the hand		
H5414	H3027	H1245	H5315	H3027		
נְבוּכַדְרֶאצַּר	מֶלֶךְ	בָּבֶל	וְכִיד	עַבְדֵי יו		
of Nebuchadrezzar	king	of Babylon	and into the hand	of his servants		
H5019	H4428	H894	H3027	H5650		
וְאַחֲרַי	י	תִּשְׁכַּח	כִּימִי	קִדְמָה	נֹאֵם	יְהוָה:
and afterward	H3651	it shall be inhabited	as in the days	of old	saith	the LORD
H310		H7931	H3117	H6924	H5002	H3068

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 44:30 (Kingdom): 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.

Ezekiel 32:11 (Kingdom): For thus saith the Lord GOD; The sword of the king of Babylon shall come upon thee.

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