

Jeremiah 46:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let not the swift flee away, nor the mighty man escape; they shall stumble, and fall toward the north by the river Euphrates.

Analysis

Let not the swift flee away, nor the mighty man escape—The negated jussives express divine decree: neither speed (qal, 'ל') nor strength (gibbor, גִּבּוֹר) provides escape from God's judgment. This echoes Amos 2:14-15: 'Flight shall perish from the swift...neither shall the mighty deliver himself.' Human advantages become worthless under divine sentence.

They shall stumble, and fall toward the north by the river Euphrates (בְּשָׁלוּ) (אָלַמְדָּה צְפֹנָה אֶל-נָהָר-פְּרָת)—The verbs kashlu (stumbled) and naflu (fell) describe complete military defeat at the battle site. Geographic precision ('toward the north...Euphrates') confirms historical fulfillment at Carchemish, transforming the river into Egypt's mass grave.

Historical Context

The Euphrates River, site of Egypt's imperial ambitions, became their burial ground. Babylon pursued fleeing Egyptians relentlessly, slaughtering them along the retreat route. This decisive defeat ended Egypt's attempt to dominate Syria-Palestine and established Babylonian hegemony, directly affecting Judah's fate as a Babylonian vassal.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Why do natural advantages (speed, strength) provide no refuge from God's decreed judgments?
2. How does the specific location ('by the river Euphrates') emphasize that God controls history geographically and temporally?
3. What does Egypt's defeat teach about human imperial ambitions opposed to God's sovereign plan?

Interlinear Text

פֹּגֶב וְרַאֲלֵל תִּפְלַל טַאֲלֵל בְּקַרְבָּן לְבַקְרָן אֲלֵל
H408 **flee away** H5127 Let not the swift H7031 H408 **escape** H4422 nor the mighty man H1368

וְנִפְלָלָה: כְּשַׁל וְכַפְרַת אֶגְפָּה וְנִפְלָלָה:
toward the north H5921 by the river H5104 Euphrates H6578 they shall stumble H3782 and fall H5307

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 11:19 (Parallel theme): Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.

Jeremiah 46:12 (Parallel theme): The nations have heard of thy shame, and thy cry hath filled the land: for the mighty man hath stumbled against the mighty, and they are fallen both together.