

Jeremiah 46:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who is this that cometh up as a flood, whose waters are moved as the rivers?

Analysis

Who is this that cometh up as a flood (מי זה פאר עולה)—The interrogative introduces poetic imagery mocking Egypt's imperial arrogance. Ye'or (פאר) specifically designates the Nile River, Egypt's lifeblood and symbol of national power. The simile compares Egypt's military expansion to the Nile's annual inundation—seemingly unstoppable, life-giving to Egypt, overwhelming to others.

Whose waters are moved as the rivers—The verb yitga'ashu (ויתגש) means 'surge' or 'toss violently,' describing turbulent floodwaters. Egypt's military campaigns rolled forth like floodwaters—chaotic, powerful, apparently irresistible. Yet this rhetorical question anticipates v. 8's answer, then v. 9-12's devastating reversal. Like Pharaoh before the Red Sea, Egypt's 'flood' will drown them.

Historical Context

The Nile's annual flood was central to Egyptian civilization, religion, and self-understanding. Pharaohs were considered divine guarantors of the inundation. Using this imagery, Jeremiah targets Egypt's foundational national pride—their god-like power to bless or destroy. Yet Yahweh controls even the Nile (Exodus 7:17-21).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the Nile imagery expose the fundamental idolatry underlying Egyptian national confidence?
2. Why is it significant that God mocks Egypt using their own religious symbol (the Nile flood)?
3. What 'floods' of human power appear unstoppable today, yet remain under God's sovereign control?

Interlinear Text

מַיִם	הַזָּהָר	בַּעַל הַיּוֹם	פְּנַנְנָה וְתַּחַגְעָשׂ
H4310	H2088	as a flood	Who is this that cometh up
		H2975	H5927

מִקְדָּשׁ

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 47:2 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; Behold, waters rise up out of the north, and shall be an overflowing flood, and shall overflow the land, and all that is therein; the city, and them that dwell therein: then the men shall cry, and all the inhabitants of the land shall howl.

Daniel 11:22 (Parallel theme): And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant.