

Jeremiah 47:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Thus saith the LORD; Behold, waters rise up out of the north (כה אמר יְהוָה) — The mayim olim (rising waters) metaphor depicts Babylonian invasion as an unstoppable flood. **And shall be an overflowing flood** (וְהִיא לְגָמָל) uses nachal shotef (torrential stream), evoking the destructive power of flash floods in desert wadis. The imagery contrasts with the "north" motif—Babylon approaches from arid regions but comes like overwhelming waters.

Then the men shall cry, and all the inhabitants of the land shall howl (וְיָצַר) — zaaq (cry out) and heilil (howl/wail) denote desperate lamentation. The comprehensive kol yoshev ha'arets (all inhabitants of the land) leaves no one untouched by judgment.

Historical Context

Mesopotamian armies were often compared to floods in ancient Near Eastern literature. The Babylonian Chronicle confirms Nebuchadnezzar's campaigns along the Mediterranean coast (c. 604-603 BC), fulfilling this prophecy. Philistine cities like Ashkelon were destroyed during these invasions.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Why does Scripture use water imagery (usually associated with blessing) to describe judgment?
2. How does the "north" consistently represent threat throughout Jeremiah's prophecies?
3. What does universal crying and howling teach about the comprehensive nature of divine judgment?

Interlinear Text

מִצְפָּה	עַל יָם	מִן יָם	הַנָּה	יְהֹוָה	אָמַר הָ	כִּי	מִצְפָּה
H6828	H5927	H4325	H2009	H3068	H559	H3541	Thus saith the LORD
בְּאָרֶץ	וַיִּשְׁטַפֵּו	וַיִּשְׁטַפֵּו	וַיִּשְׁטַפֵּו	וַיִּשְׁטַפֵּו	וַיִּשְׁטַפֵּו	וַיִּשְׁטַפֵּו	וְבְאָרֶץ
H776	H7857	H7857	H7857	H7857	H7857	H7857	of the land
בְּבָבֶל וּבְבָבֶל	וְמִלְאָה הָ	וְמִלְאָה הָ	וְמִלְאָה הָ	וְמִלְאָה הָ	וְמִלְאָה הָ	וְמִלְאָה הָ	בְּבָבֶל וּבְבָבֶל
H5158	H4393	H5892	H3427	H3427	H3427	H3427	and all that is therein the city and all the inhabitants
בְּבָבֶל וְבְבָבֶל	וְבְבָבֶל וְבְבָבֶל	וְבְבָבֶל וְבְבָבֶל	וְבְבָבֶל וְבְבָבֶל	וְבְבָבֶל וְבְבָבֶל	וְבְבָבֶל וְבְבָבֶל	וְבְבָבֶל וְבְבָבֶל	בְּבָבֶל וְבְבָבֶל
H776	H2199	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	shall cry shall cry shall cry shall cry shall cry
בְּאָרֶץ	וְבְבָבֶל וְבְבָבֶל	וְבְבָבֶל וְבְבָבֶל	וְבְבָבֶל וְבְבָבֶל	וְבְבָבֶל וְבְבָבֶל	וְבְבָבֶל וְבְבָבֶל	וְבְבָבֶל וְבְבָבֶל	בְּאָרֶץ
H776	H3605	H3213	H3427	H3427	H3427	H3427	of the land
therein then the men	shall howl	shall howl	and all the inhabitants	of the land of the land of the land			
H120	H120	H120	H120	H120	H120	H120	H120

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 1:14 (References Lord): Then the LORD said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land.

Jeremiah 46:20 (Parallel theme): Egypt is like a very fair heifer, but destruction cometh; it cometh out of the north.

Jeremiah 8:16 (Parallel theme): The snorting of his horses was heard from Dan: the whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones; for they are come, and have devoured the land, and all that is in it; the city, and those that dwell therein.

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