

Jeremiah 47:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At the noise of the stamping of the hoofs of his strong horses,
at the rushing of his chariots, and at the rumbling of his
wheels, the fathers shall not look back to their children for
feebleness of hands;

Analysis

At the noise of the stamping of the hoofs of his strong horses, at the rushing of his chariots, and at the rumbling of his wheels (מִקּוֹל שַׁעֲטַת פָּרָסוֹת) —The triple auditory assault creates overwhelming sensory terror: shaatah (stamping), raash (rushing/rattling), and hamon (rumbling/tumult). Abbirim (strong ones/stallions) emphasizes elite cavalry. The alliterative Hebrew intensifies the cacophony of invasion.

The fathers shall not look back to their children for feebleness of hands (לֹא־הִפְנוּ אֲבוֹת אֶל־בָּנִים מִרְפּוּיֵן יָדַיִם) —The shocking image of fathers abandoning children reverses natural parental instinct. Rifyon yadayim (slackness/feebleness of hands) denotes paralyzing terror, the same phrase used of Joshua's enemies (Joshua 2:11, 5:1). Panic dissolves the most basic human bonds.

Historical Context

Babylonian military technology was superior, with heavy cavalry and sophisticated chariotry. The psychological impact of these forces terrified smaller nations. Archaeological evidence from Ashkelon shows destruction layers from this period, confirming the prophecy's fulfillment.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the vivid sensory language (sound of hooves, wheels, chariots) make divine judgment tangible?
2. What does the image of fathers abandoning children reveal about the totality of judgment's terror?
3. How might "feebleness of hands" describe spiritual paralysis in the face of consequences we've long avoided?

Interlinear Text

מֶקֶץ וּל	שָׁעֲטָת	פָּרָס וּת	אֲבִיר יוֹ	מִבְּעֵשׂ
At the noise	of the stamping	of the hoofs	of his strong	horses at the rushing
H6963	H8161	H6541	H47	H7494
לְרֶכֶב וּ	הֵם וּן	גִּלְגָּל יוֹ	לֹא	הִפּוּ וּ
of his chariots	and at the rumbling	of his wheels	H3808	shall not look back
H7393	H1995	H1534		H6437
אֲבוֹת	אֶל	בְּנֵי יָם	מְרִפֵּי וּן	יָדַיִם:
the fathers	H413	to their children	for feebleness	of hands
H1		H1121	H7510	H3027

Additional Cross-References

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.

Judges 5:22 (Parallel theme): Then were the horsehoofs broken by the means of the pransings, the pransings of their mighty ones.

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