

Jeremiah 49:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies,
and before them that seek their life: and I will bring evil upon
them, even my fierce anger, saith the LORD; and I will send
the sword after them, till I have consumed them:

Analysis

For I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies (וְהַחֲתַטְּתִי אֶת־עֵילָם לִפְנֵי אֹיְבֵיהֶם, v'hachtattti et-Elam lifnei oy'veihem)—The verb chatat means to shatter, terrify, dismay. God personally engineers psychological collapse. Elam's warriors will lose courage, fulfilling covenant curse patterns (Leviticus 26:36-37). **And before them that seek their life**—not casual opponents but mortal enemies intent on extermination.

And I will bring evil upon them, even my fierce anger (וְהָבֵאתִי עָלֵיהֶם רָעָה אֲתִי, v'heveti aleihem ra'ah et-charon appi)—Ra'ah (calamity/evil) is God's judicial response; charon appi (burning of My anger) reveals the intensity. Divine wrath isn't capricious emotion but settled judicial response to sin. **And I will send the sword after them, till I have consumed them**—the sword personified as pursuing predator. Kalah (consume) suggests thorough, not necessarily total, destruction—enough to accomplish God's purposes.

Historical Context

Elam faced multiple invasions: Babylonian campaigns, then Persian conquest under Cyrus, later Hellenistic conflicts. The 'sword after them' describes recurring

military disasters that prevented Elam from regaining power. God's 'fierce anger' manifested through historical processes, not just supernatural intervention.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God use 'dismay' and psychological warfare as instruments of judgment alongside physical destruction?
2. What does God's 'fierce anger' reveal about His holiness and justice—is divine wrath arbitrary or principled?
3. In what sense does the 'sword' pursue until consumption, and when does God's judgment reach completion?

Interlinear Text

וְהִתַּת י	אֶת	עַל	וּלְפָנַי	אֹיְבֵיהֶם	וּלְפָנַי
to be dismayed	H853	For I will cause Elam	and before	their enemies	and before
H2865		H5867	H6440	H341	H6440
מִבְּקֹשִׁי	נַפְשָׁם	וְהֵבֵאתִי	עָלֵיהֶם	רָעָה	אֶת
them that seek	their life	and I will bring	H5921	evil	H853
H1245	H5315	H935		H7451	
חַר־וֹן	אֲפִי	נֹאֵם	יְהוָה	וְשִׁלַּחְתִּי	אַחֲרֵיהֶם
upon them even my fierce	anger	saith	the LORD	and I will send	after
H2740	H639	H5002	H3068	H7971	H310
אֶת	הַחֶרֶב	עַד	כְּלוֹתִי	אוֹתָם:	
H853	the sword	H5704	them till I have consumed	H853	
	H2719		H3615		

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 9:16 (Word): I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them.

Jeremiah 48:2 (Word): There shall be no more praise of Moab: in Heshbon they have devised evil against it; come, and let us cut it off from being a nation. Also thou shalt be cut down, O Madmen; the sword shall pursue thee.

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