

Jeremiah 50:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away:
first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this
Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones.

Analysis

Israel is described as 'a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away.' The lion imagery represents conquering empires - first Assyria devoured Israel (northern kingdom), then Babylon 'hath broken his bones.' Despite being prey to predatory nations, God calls Israel 'my sheep,' affirming covenant relationship despite scattering. The Good Shepherd will gather His flock (John 10:11-16).

Historical Context

This verse summarizes Israel's history: Assyria conquered the northern kingdom (722 BC), then Babylon conquered Judah (586 BC). Yet they remain God's flock.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's identification of Israel as 'scattered sheep' reveal His heart?
2. What does it mean that God claims His people even when they're scattered and broken?

Interlinear Text

הַרְאֵשׁ וְנִ	הָדָד יָחִוּ	אֲרִי וְתִ	יִשְׂרָאֵל לִ	פָּזַרְהָ	שֶׁה
first	have driven him away	the lions	Israel	is a scattered	sheep
H7223	H5080	H738	H3478	H6340	H7716
וְעָצְמוֹ	הָאֲחֵרֹן	וְזֶה	אִישׁ וְיֶ	מֶלֶךְ	אָכְלוּ
hath broken his bones	him and last	H2088	of Assyria	king	hath devoured
H6105	H314		H804	H4428	H398
בָּבֶל:	מֶלֶךְ	נְבוּכַדְרֶעֶצַר			
of Babylon	king	this Nebuchadrezzar			
H894	H4428	H5019			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 2:15 (Parallel theme): The young lions roared upon him, and yelled, and they made his land waste: his cities are burned without inhabitant.

Jeremiah 50:6 (Parallel theme): My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace.

Joel 3:2 (References Israel): I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

1 Peter 2:25 (Parallel theme): For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.