

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

פָּרָאשׁ וְיָהּ הַדָּיְחָה אֶל פְּזֹזֶב הַשְׁבָּא וְאֶת שְׁבָּא הַשְׁבָּא

sheep is a scattered

Israel

the lions

have driven him away

פָּרָאשׁ וְיָהּ הַדָּיְחָה אֶל פְּזֹזֶב הַשְׁבָּא וְאֶת שְׁבָּא הַשְׁבָּא

first

H7716

H6340

H3478

H738

H5080

H7223

עָצָם וְבָאָתְרוֹן אֶלְכָלָו מִלְּאָשָׁר וְאֶל הַיְמָן וְאֶל

hath devoured

king

of Assyria

H2088

him and last

hath broken his bones

H398

H4428

H804

H314

H6105

בְּבָלָה מִלְּאָשָׁר נְבוּכָדְנָאָצָר

this Nebuchadrezzar

king

of Babylon

H5019

H4428

H894

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.