

Jeremiah 52:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king of Babylon smote them, and put them to death in Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah was carried away captive out of his own land.

Analysis

The king of Babylon smote them, and put them to death (לְךָ אֶתְתָּם...לְמִתְתָּם)—execution, not merely captivity. The verb מִתְתָּם (death) is emphatic. **In Riblah in the land of Hamath**—northern Syria, symbolically far from the Promised Land. **Thus Judah was carried away captive out of his own land** (וְיָצַל יְהוּדָה מִעַל אֶצְתָּם)—exile, reversing the Exodus.

This verse is the theological climax: covenant curses fulfilled (Leviticus 26:27-33; Deuteronomy 28:36). The land promised to Abraham's seed was lost through covenant unfaithfulness. Yet 'carried away' (galah) also appears in restoration prophecies (Jeremiah 29:14), hinting that exile is not final.

Historical Context

The execution of Judah's leaders at Riblah (586 BC) parallels the execution of Zedekiah's sons there, followed by his blinding (v. 10-11). This double tragedy ended the Davidic monarchy until the Messiah's coming, creating a 600-year gap in the royal line.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the phrase 'out of his own land' emphasize the reversal of God's covenant promises through disobedience?
2. What hope does the prophetic use of 'exile' language elsewhere in Jeremiah offer even in this darkest moment?
3. In what ways might you be experiencing spiritual 'exile' from God's blessing due to covenant unfaithfulness?

Interlinear Text

בָּאָרֶץ	חַמָּת	וְיָגֵל	יְהוּדָה	מַעַל
out of his own land	of Hamath	was carried away captive	Thus Judah	
H776	H2574	H1540	H3063	H5921

אֶדְמָתָה
in the land

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 27:10 (Parallel theme): Yet the defenced city shall be desolate, and the habitation forsaken, and left like a wilderness: there shall the calf feed, and there shall he lie down, and consume the branches thereof.

Ezekiel 33:28 (Parallel theme): For I will lay the land most desolate, and the pomp of her strength shall cease; and the mountains of Israel shall be desolate, that none shall pass through.

Micah 4:10 (References Babylon): Be in pain, and labour to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail: for now shalt thou go forth out of the city, and thou shalt dwell in the field, and thou shalt go even to Babylon; there shalt thou be delivered; there the LORD shall redeem thee from the hand of thine enemies.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org