

Jeremiah 6:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem, and blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Beth-haccerem: for evil appeareth out of the north, and great destruction.

Analysis

This urgent warning calls for flight from Jerusalem, employing three methods of alarm: gathering, trumpet blowing, and fire signals. The tribe of Benjamin, whose territory included Jerusalem, receives special address as judgment approaches 'out of the north'—a reference to Babylon. The Hebrew imperative mood throughout this verse creates urgency, emphasizing that God's judgment, though patient, eventually arrives with certainty. This reflects Reformed theology's teaching on God's wrath: it is not capricious but measured, giving opportunity for repentance before executing justice.

Historical Context

Written before the Babylonian invasion (586 BC), this prophecy gave Judah warning to repent. Tekoa (Amos's hometown) and Beth-haccerem were towns south of Jerusalem used as signal points for military warnings.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How should the certainty of coming judgment affect the church's evangelistic urgency today?
2. What warning signals is God giving our generation about approaching judgment?
3. How can we faithfully sound the alarm about sin's consequences while maintaining hope in Christ?

Interlinear Text

רֹאשׁוֹת מִקְדָּשׁ יְהוָה	בְּנֵי יְהוּדָה	בְּנֵי בְּנִימָן	מִקְדָּשׁ כָּבֵד	יְהוָה וְשָׁלֹם
gather yourselves to flee	O ye children	of Benjamin	out of the midst	of Jerusalem
H5756	H1121	H1144	H7130	H3389
וְעַתָּה תְּקֻעֵנָה וּבְתַקְעֵנָה וְעַל	שׁוֹפֵר תְּקֻעֵנָה וּבְתַקְעֵנָה וְעַל	בְּיַתְּרֵךְ	בְּקָרְבָּם	בְּקָרְבָּם
in Tekoa	and blow	the trumpet	H5921	of fire in Bethhaccerem
H8620	H8628	H7782	H0	H1021
וְעַתָּה מִשְׁאָתָה שָׁאָתָה	בְּעֵת הַשְׁאָתָה מִשְׁאָתָה	נִשְׁאָתָה הַשְׁאָתָה	מִצְפָּה מִצְפָּה	וְעַתָּה בְּרָהָר
and set up	a sign	H3588	for evil	destruction
H5375	H4864	H7451	H8259	H6828
גְּדוֹלָה				
and great				
H1419				

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 3:14 (Parallel theme): But the dung gate repaired Malchiah the son of Rechab, the ruler of part of Beth-haccerem; he built it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof.

Jeremiah 6:22 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, Behold, a people cometh from the north country, and a great nation shall be raised from the sides of the earth.

2 Chronicles 11:6 (Parallel theme): He built even Beth-lehem, and Etam, and Tekoa,

2 Samuel 14:2 (Parallel theme): And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her, I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the dead:

Judges 1:21 (References Jerusalem): And the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites that inhabited Jerusalem; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem unto this day.

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