

Jeremiah 6:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them.

Analysis

God calls the nations (Gentiles) as witnesses to His judgment against Judah. The phrase 'hear, ye nations' and 'know, O congregation, what is among them' summons the world to observe God's righteous judgment. This serves multiple purposes: it vindicates God's justice before all peoples, demonstrates that covenant breaking brings consequences, and warns other nations. The appeal to witnesses reflects Ancient Near Eastern legal practices where treaties required witnesses. Reformed theology sees this as God's concern for His reputation among the nations—His judgment of Israel demonstrates His holiness and justice to all peoples.

Historical Context

The surrounding nations watched Judah's fall with a mixture of fear and vindication. Babylon's conquest became legendary, demonstrating that even covenant relationship with Yahweh did not protect from judgment when faithfulness failed.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Why does God call the nations as witnesses to His judgment of His own people?
2. What does this verse teach about God's concern for His reputation among all peoples?
3. How should the church's witness to the world be affected by awareness that nations observe how God deals with His people?

Interlinear Text

לְכָא שָׁמָע וְגַם מִלְּדָע יְדַע עַד הַעֲדָה עַד אֶת אַשְׁר בְּמָה |
H3651 Therefore hear ye nations and know O congregation H853 H834 H0
H8085 H1471 H3045 H5712

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