

Jeremiah 6:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

A people comes 'from the north country' (Babylon), described as a 'great nation' being 'raised from the sides of the earth.' The phrase 'raised' (Hebrew 'ur') suggests God's sovereign stirring up of this nation for His purposes. This mighty army serves as God's instrument of judgment, demonstrating His absolute sovereignty over all nations. Reformed theology emphasizes God's meticulous providence—even pagan empires serve His redemptive purposes. This verse also shows that distance is no obstacle to God's judgment; He can summon nations from earth's extremities to execute His will.

Historical Context

Babylon rose to power in the late 7th century BC under Nebuchadnezzar, conquering the Assyrian Empire and eventually Judah. Their empire extended across the Ancient Near East, fulfilling the 'great nation' description.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty over pagan nations encourage believers facing powerful opposition?
2. What does this verse teach about God's ability to accomplish His purposes through any means?
3. How should understanding God's control over world events affect our political anxieties?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אָמַר רְבָבָה אָמַר רְבָבָה אָמַר רְבָבָה

H3541 Thus saith the LORD H2009 Behold a people cometh country

H559

H3068

H5971

H935

H776

אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אָמַר רְבָבָה אָמַר רְבָבָה אָמַר רְבָבָה

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from the north

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shall be raised

from the sides

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H6828

H1471

H1419

H5782

H3411

H776

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 10:22 (Parallel theme): Behold, the noise of the bruit is come, and a great commotion out of the north country, to make the cities of Judah desolate, and a den of dragons.

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