

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

כָּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	הִנֵּה	עַם	בָּא	אֶרֶץ:
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	H2009	Behold a people	cometh	country
	H559	H3068		H5971	H935	H776
צָפֹן	וּמִן	גֹּדֹל	יֵעָרֵר	מִמִּצְרַיִם	אֶרֶץ:	
from the north	nation	and a great	shall be raised	from the sides	country	
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.