

Jeremiah 7:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the carcases of this people shall be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth; and none shall fray them away.

Analysis

The description continues: 'And the carcases of this people shall be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth; and none shall fray them away.' Denial of burial was considered a terrible curse in ancient Near Eastern culture (Deuteronomy 28:26). Bodies left for scavengers meant ultimate dishonor and covenant curse fulfillment. The phrase 'none shall fray them away' indicates such devastation that no survivors remain to protect the dead. This represents total defeat and abandonment. The reversal is complete: from covenant people to carrion for beasts.

Historical Context

The Babylonian conquest resulted in massive casualties with insufficient survivors to bury the dead properly. Jeremiah 8:1-2 and 16:4 repeat this judgment, emphasizing its certainty.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does denial of proper burial symbolize about ultimate dishonor and curse?
2. How does this judgment image emphasize the totality of covenant breaking's consequences?
3. What hope exists for resurrection and restoration even after such devastating judgment?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה הָ	נִבְלָתָהּ	הָעָם	הַזֶּה	לְמַאֲכָל	לְעוֹף
H1961	And the carcasses	of this people	H2088	shall be meat	for the fowls
	H5038	H5971		H3978	H5775
הַשָּׁמַיִם	וּלְבֵהֵמָהּ	הָאָרֶץ	וְאִין	מִמְחִידִים:	
of the heaven	and for the beasts	of the earth	H369	and none shall fray them away	
H8064	H929	H776		H2729	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 12:9 (Parallel theme): Mine heritage is unto me as a speckled bird, the birds round about are against her; come ye, assemble all the beasts of the field, come to devour.

Deuteronomy 28:26 (Parallel theme): And thy carcass shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall fray them away.