

Jeremiah 9:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them.

Analysis

This verse describes scattering judgment: 'I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known.' The Hebrew *shattat* (שָׁטַט, scatter, disperse) with *goyim* (גוֹיִם, nations) describes exile among foreign peoples. 'Whom neither they nor their fathers have known' emphasizes the foreignness, alienation, and disorientation of exile—not just distant but completely unknown territory. 'And I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them' indicates that exile itself wasn't the complete judgment—persecution, warfare, and death would pursue them even in dispersion. The 'sword' (*cherev*) follows them; there is no escape.

Historical Context

The Babylonian exile scattered Judeans across the Neo-Babylonian Empire. Some fled to Egypt (Jeremiah 43-44); others were resettled throughout Mesopotamia. The promise of continuing sword fulfills Deuteronomy 28:64-67's curse of dispersion with fear and trembling. Historical records show that Jewish communities in Babylon and Egypt faced various persecutions over subsequent centuries, though some also prospered.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does exile among unknown nations represent complete disorientation from the covenant blessings of land and community?
2. What does the pursuing sword teach about the impossibility of escaping divine judgment through geographical relocation?

Interlinear Text

וְהִפְצֹתִים	בְּגוֹיִם	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא	יָדְעוּ	הָמָּה
I will scatter	them also among the heathen	H834	H3808	have known	H1992
H6327	H1471			H3045	
וְאֲבוֹתָם	וְשִׁלַּחַתִּי	אַחֲרֵיהֶם	אֶת	הַחֶרֶב	
whom neither they nor their fathers	and I will send	after	H853	a sword	
H1	H7971	H310		H2719	
עַד	כִּלּוֹתִי	אוֹתָם:			
H5704	them till I have consumed	H853			
	H3615				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 28:64 (Parallel theme): And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

Ezekiel 5:2 (Word): Thou shalt burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled: and thou shalt take a third part, and smite

about it with a knife: and a third part thou shalt scatter in the wind; and I will draw out a sword after them.

Ezekiel 5:12 (Word): A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.

Leviticus 26:33 (Word): And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

Jeremiah 44:27 (Word): Behold, I will watch over them for evil, and not for good: and all the men of Judah that are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine, until there be an end of them.

Jeremiah 13:24 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I scatter them as the stubble that passeth away by the wind of the wilderness.