

Jeremiah 9:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will punish all them which are circumcised with the uncircumcised;

Analysis

This verse announces judgment on physical circumcision without spiritual reality: 'Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will punish all them which are circumcised with the uncircumcised.' The Hebrew *mul* (מָלֵךְ, circumcised) is combined with *arelim* (עָרֵלִים, uncircumcised)—the phrase suggests 'circumcised in foreskin' or those physically circumcised but spiritually uncircumcised. God will judge Israel alongside pagan nations, suggesting their circumcision provides no protection when hearts remain uncircumcised. This anticipates Paul's argument in Romans 2:25-29 that true circumcision is of the heart.

Historical Context

Circumcision marked covenant identity from Abraham (Genesis 17). Yet Israel presumed the physical sign guaranteed divine favor regardless of heart condition. Jeremiah repeatedly emphasizes heart circumcision (4:4). The nations listed in verse 26—Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab, desert dwellers—include both circumcised (Israel) and uncircumcised peoples, all facing judgment. Archaeological and textual evidence shows various forms of circumcision practiced among Israel's neighbors.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does judging the circumcised with the uncircumcised challenge reliance on religious rituals without heart transformation?
2. What contemporary religious practices might function like circumcision—external marks lacking internal reality?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּה	יְמִינֵיכֶם	בָּאִים	בְּאָמָר	נָאָמָר	יְהִי	הַקְדָּשָׁה	וְעַל	כָּל
H2009	Behold the days	come	saith	the LORD	that I will punish		H5921	H3605
	H3117	H935	H5002	H3068	H6485			

בְּעַרְלָה:

all them which are circumcised with the uncircumcised

H4135 H6190

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