

Jeremiah 9:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that are in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.

Analysis

This verse lists nations facing judgment: 'Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that are in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness.' The Hebrew list includes Israel's major neighbors and trading partners. 'For all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.' The climactic indictment equates Israel's heart condition with pagan uncleanness. Despite physical circumcision, Israel's uncircumcised hearts (arelei-lev, עֲרֵלֵי־לֵב) made them spiritually identical to pagans. The circumcision that matters—heart circumcision—was absent. External religious identity without internal transformation provides no protection from judgment.

Historical Context

The nations listed would all experience Babylonian conquest or domination. Egypt fell to Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC at Carchemish. Edom, Ammon, and Moab were subjugated during his campaigns. 'Those in the corners/wilderness' may refer to Arabian tribes who trimmed their hair at the temples (forbidden in Leviticus 19:27). The comprehensive list shows Babylon as God's instrument judging all nations, Israel included.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does Israel's equation with pagan nations teach about the worthlessness of religious identity without heart devotion?
2. How does this passage anticipate the New Testament teaching that there is no distinction—all have sinned (Romans 3:22-23)?

Interlinear Text

עַל H5921	מִצְרַיִם H4714	וְעַל H5921	יְהוּדָה H3063	וְעַל H5921	אֶדוֹם H123	וְעַל H5921	בְּנֵי יִ H1121
	Egypt		and Judah		and Edom		and the children
	עַמּוֹן H5983	וְעַל H5921	מוֹאָב H4124	וְעַל H5921	כָּל H3605	קְצוּצֵי י H7112	פְּאַת הַ H6285
	of Ammon		and Moab			and all that are in the utmost	corners
	הַיֹּשְׁבִים H3427	בַּמִּדְבָּר H4057	כִּי י H3588	כָּל H3605	הַגּוֹיִם H1471	עַרְלֵי H6189	
	that dwell	in the wilderness			for all these nations	are uncircumcised	
וְכָל H3605	בֵּית H1004	יִשְׂרָאֵל H3478	עַרְלֵי H6189	לִבּוֹ: H3820			
	and all the house	of Israel	are uncircumcised	in the heart			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 4:4 (Parallel theme): Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.

Leviticus 26:41 (Parallel theme): And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity:

Ezekiel 44:7 (Parallel theme): In that ye have brought into my sanctuary strangers, uncircumcised in heart, and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in my sanctuary, to pollute it, even my house, when ye offer my bread, the fat and the blood, and they have broken my covenant because of all your abominations.

Acts 7:51 (Parallel theme): Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

Jeremiah 49:32 (Parallel theme): And their camels shall be a booty, and the multitude of their cattle a spoil: and I will scatter into all winds them that are in the utmost corners; and I will bring their calamity from all sides thereof, saith the LORD.