

Amos 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a man's uncle shall take him up, and he that burneth him, to bring out the bones out of the house, and shall say unto him that is by the sides of the house, Is there yet any with thee? and he shall say, No. Then shall he say, Hold thy tongue: for we may not make mention of the name of the LORD.

Analysis

And a man's uncle shall take him up, and he that burneth him, to bring out the bones out of the house—Jewish burial custom involved family members retrieving bodies. דוד (dod, 'uncle') represents extended family obligation. The phrase 'burneth him' (עַמְּסָרְפּוּ, um'sarfo) is unusual—Jews typically didn't cremate except in extreme circumstances (plague, war, desecration prevention). **And shall say unto him that is by the sides of the house, Is there yet any with thee? and he shall say, No.**—a survivor check finds none remaining. **Then shall he say, Hold thy tongue: for we may not make mention of the name of the LORD** (בְּשֵׁם־יְהֹוָה) either fearing to invoke God's name amidst judgment or recognizing their covenant-breaking forfeited the right to call on Him.

This chilling scene depicts absolute desolation and spiritual terror. The command to silence suggests recognition that God has turned against them—speaking His name might bring further judgment. When people can no longer pray, judgment has reached its fullest expression.

Historical Context

This verse reflects the horrors of siege warfare and conquest's aftermath—mass death, emergency cremation, and terrorized survivors afraid to invoke their covenant God. The psychological and spiritual devastation matches physical destruction.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to be unable or afraid to invoke God's name—complete abandonment or self-imposed silence?
2. How should this terrifying scene motivate urgent faithfulness while we can still freely call on God's name?
3. What warning does this give about societies or churches where God's name becomes increasingly unwelcome?

Interlinear Text

לְהוֹצֵא יְאָוֶת וְמִסְרָפֵן וְדָדֵן וְנַשְׁאָה
shall take him up And a man's uncle and he that burneth him to bring out
H5375 H1730 H5635 H3318

לֹאָשֶׁר מִן עֲצָמִים מִתְבֵּנָה
the bones of the house Is there yet any with thee and he shall say
H6106 H4480 H1004 H559 H834

עַל כָּל בֵּית בְּרִכְתִּים
unto him that is by the sides of the house
H3411 H1004 H5750 H5973

אֵם רָאשׁ
Is there yet any with thee and he shall say No
H559 H657

לֹא כִּי תְּשַׁׁלֵּחַ
Is there yet any with thee and he shall say Hold thy tongue
H559 H2013 H3588 H3808

לֹבֶזֶק יְרֵא בְּשֵׁם יְהֹוָה
for we may not make mention of the name of the LORD
H2142 H8034 H3068

Additional Cross-References

Amos 8:3 (References Lord): And the songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord GOD: there shall be many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast them forth with silence.

1 Samuel 31:12 (Parallel theme): All the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan, and came to Jabesh, and burnt them there.

Amos 5:13 (Parallel theme): Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time.

Jeremiah 44:26 (References Lord): Therefore hear ye the word of the LORD, all Judah that dwell in the land of Egypt; Behold, I have sworn by my great name, saith the LORD, that my name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, The Lord GOD liveth.

Jeremiah 16:6 (Parallel theme): Both the great and the small shall die in this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall men lament for them, nor cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them:

Ezekiel 24:21 (References Lord): Speak unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will profane my sanctuary, the excellency of your strength, the desire of your eyes, and that which your soul pitieith; and your sons and your daughters whom ye have left shall fall by the sword.

Ezekiel 20:39 (References Lord): As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols.

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