

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' (וּמְסָרְפוֹ, 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** (הֲס כִּי־לֹא לְהַזְכִּיר בְּשֵׁם־יְהוָה, has ki-lo l'hazkir b'shem-YHWH)—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

וְנָשָׂא וְ	דִּיד וְ	וּמִסְרַפ וְ	לְהוֹצִיָּא
shall take him up	And a man's uncle	and he that burneth	him to bring out
H5375	H1730	H5635	H3318
עַצְמוֹתַי מִן	הֵב יֵת	וְאֵמָר	לְאִשׁוֹ רַ
the bones	of the house	Is there yet any with thee	and he shall say
H4480 H6106	H1004	H559	H834
בְּיָרְכֶיךָ יְ	הֵב יֵת	עַמְּךָ הָעוֹד	
unto him that is by the sides	of the house		
H3411	H1004	H5750	H5973
וְאֵמָר רַ	אֶפְסֹ		
Is there yet any with thee and he shall say	No		
H559	H657		
וְאֵמָר רַ	הִסֵּ	לֹא כִי	
Is there yet any with thee and he shall say	Hold thy tongue		
H559	H2013	H3588	H3808
לְהִזְכִּיר	בְּשֵׁם	יְהוָה:	
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 pitieth; 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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