

Amos 6:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For, behold, the LORD commandeth, and he will smite the great house with breaches, and the little house with clefts.

Analysis

For, behold, the LORD commandeth, and he will smite the great house with breaches, and the little house with clefts פִּירְנֵה וְהִנֵּה מֵצָה וְהַפֵּה פְּבִית הַגְּדוֹלָה רְסִיסִים (ki-hineh YHWH m'tzaveh v'hikah habayit hagadol resisim v'habayit hakaton b'qi'im)—both great houses (הַגְּדוֹלָה,habayit hagadol, palaces) and small houses (הַקְּטָן, habayit hakaton, peasant dwellings) face destruction. (resisim, 'breaches, fragments') and (b'qi'im, 'clefts, cracks') suggest structural collapse—both total ruin and partial damage, depending on size.

This emphasizes judgment's universality: wealth provides no protection. The rich who oppressed and the poor who acquiesced both face consequences. Romans 2:11 confirms this principle: 'there is no respect of persons with God.' Judgment reaches all socioeconomic levels when a nation rejects God.

Historical Context

Assyrian conquest records and archaeological evidence confirm widespread destruction across all social strata in conquered cities. When Samaria fell, both palaces and peasant homes were destroyed—fulfilling this prophecy's details precisely.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does universal judgment—affecting rich and poor alike—demonstrate both God's justice and humanity's collective guilt?
2. What warning does this give to those who think their humble status exempts them from accountability?
3. How should the certainty of judgment motivate Christians across all socioeconomic levels to faithful witness?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	הִנֵּה	יְהוָה	מִצְרָיִם	וְהַקְרֵב	בְּרִית
H3588	H2009	For behold the LORD	H3068	H6680	and he will smite
					house
				H5221	H1004
וְהַקְרֵב	בְּרִית	מִצְרָיִם	וְהַקְרֵב	בְּרִית	
the great	with breaches	house	and the little	with clefts	
H1419	H7447	H1004	H6996	H1233	

Additional Cross-References

Amos 3:15 (References Lord): And I will smite the winter house with the summer house; and the houses of ivory shall perish, and the great houses shall have an end, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 55:11 (Parallel theme): So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2 Kings 25:9 (References Lord): And he burnt the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire.

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