

Amos 6:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore now shall they go captive with the first that go captive, and the banquet of them that stretched themselves shall be removed.

Analysis

Therefore now shall they go captive with the first that go captive (לִכְן עִתָּה יִגְלוּ) (lachen atah yiglu v'rosh golim, 'at the head of exiles') means they'll be first deported. The leaders in luxury become leaders in exile. **And the banquet of them that stretched themselves shall be removed** (וְסָר מִרְצַח סְרוּחִים) (v'sar mirzach seruchim)—מִרְצַח (mirzeach) refers to funeral feasts or revelry; their parties end abruptly.

This is poetic justice: those who lived most comfortably suffer most severely in judgment. Jesus taught similar reversal: 'many that are first shall be last' (Matthew 19:30). Privilege without responsibility, comfort without compassion, leadership without integrity—all bring greater accountability (Luke 12:48).

Historical Context

When Assyria conquered Samaria in 722 BC, they deported the leadership and aristocracy first—standard ancient Near Eastern practice. The wealthy elite who ignored warnings experienced the judgment they dismissed. Archaeological evidence confirms Samaria's destruction and deportation of its upper classes.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does greater privilege bring greater responsibility and potentially greater judgment?
2. What 'banquets' or comforts might God remove to discipline His people and wake them from spiritual apathy?
3. How should Christian leaders respond to this warning about being 'first' in judgment if they lead in unfaithfulness?

Interlinear Text

לְכָה עַתָּה לְךָ

H3651

H6258

גָּל יִם

Therefore now shall they go captive

H1540

בְּרִאשׁוֹ

with the first

H7218

גָּל יִם

Therefore now shall they go captive

H1540

וְסָר

themselves shall be removed

H5493

מִן הַמִּנְחָה

and the banquet

H4797

סָרוּחֵיהֶם:

of them that stretched

H5628

Additional Cross-References

Amos 7:11 (Parallel theme): For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land.

Amos 5:5 (Parallel theme): But seek not Beth-el, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not to Beer-sheba: for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Beth-el shall come to nought.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org