

Amos 7:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the LORD; Thy wife shall be an harlot in the city, and thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the sword, and thy land shall be divided by line; and thou shalt die in a polluted land: and Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of his land.

Analysis

Therefore thus saith the LORD—Amos pronounces specific judgment on Amaziah personally. **Thy wife shall be an harlot in the city** (אִשְׁתְּךָ בַּעִיר תִּזְנֶה, ish't'cha va'ir tizneh)—likely raped by conquering soldiers, a common siege warfare atrocity (Isaiah 13:16; Zechariah 14:2). **And thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the sword**—his children will be killed. **And thy land shall be divided by line** (וְאֶדְמַתְךָ בְּחֶבֶל תִּחְלָק, v'admat'cha bachevel techulak)—his property will be parceled out to foreign settlers. **And thou shalt die in a polluted land: and Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of his land** (וְאַתָּה עַל־אֲדָמָה טְמֵאָה וְיִשְׂרָאֵל גָּלוּהוּ, v'atah al-adamah t'me'ah tamut v'Yisrael galoh yigleh me'al admato)—Amaziah will die in exile on unclean (טְמֵאָה, t'me'ah) foreign soil.

This is the prophet's authority to pronounce judgment (Matthew 18:18; John 20:23). Amaziah resisted God's word, so God's word judges him specifically. The progression—wife, children, land, death in exile—encompasses total loss. Resisting God's prophetic word brings not safety but heightened judgment.

Historical Context

No record exists of Amaziah's fate, but this prophecy's specificity suggests it was remembered and likely fulfilled during Assyria's conquest. The principle holds: those who silence prophetic truth to preserve institutions face greater judgment than those they sought to protect from conviction.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does resisting prophetic truth bring judgment rather than protection from uncomfortable conviction?
2. What does it mean for religious leaders to die 'in a polluted land'—separated from God's presence and promises?
3. How should this warning shape how church leaders respond to biblical critique of their practices?

Interlinear Text

כֹּה לְךָ	אָמַר	יְהוָה	אִשְׁתְּךָ	בֵּעַ יִר
H3651	H3541	Therefore thus saith	the LORD	Thy wife in the city
	H559		H3068	H802 H5892
תִּזְנֶה	וּבְנֵי יָךְ	וּבִנֹתֶיךָ	בַּחֶרֶב	יִפְּלוּ
shall be an harlot	and thy sons	and thy daughters	by the sword	shall fall
H2181	H1121	H1323	H2719	H5307
אֶדְמָתוֹ:	בְּחַיִּל	תִּחַלֵּץ ק	וְאֶת ה	מֵעַ ל
and thy land	by line	shall be divided	H859	in and thy land
H127	H2256	H2505		H5921 H127
טִמְאָה	תָּמּוּ וְתָ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	יָגֵל ה	יָגֵל ה
a polluted	and thou shalt die	and Israel	go into captivity	go into captivity
H2931	H4191	H3478	H1540	H1540
מֵעַ ל	אֶדְמָתוֹ:			
in	and thy land			
H5921	H127			

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 9:3 (References Lord): They shall not dwell in the LORD'S land; but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean things in Assyria.

2 Kings 17:6 (References Israel): In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

Jeremiah 28:16 (References Lord): Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will cast thee from off the face of the earth: this year thou shalt die, because thou hast taught rebellion against the LORD.

Ezekiel 4:13 (References Lord): And the LORD said, Even thus shall the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles, whither I will drive them.

Jeremiah 29:21 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, of Ahab the son of Kolaiah, and of Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah, which prophesy a lie unto you in my name; Behold, I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon; and he shall slay them before your eyes;

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

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