

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** (אָשָׁתָּה בָּעֵיר תִּזְנֵה, 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** (וְאָזְמַתָּה בְּחֶבֶל תְּחֻלָּק, 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** (וְאָתָּה עַל־אָזְמָה טָמֵאָה וְיִשְׂרָאֵל גָּלֵה בְּגָלָה מַעַל אָזְמָתוֹ, v'atah al-adamah t'me'ah tamut v'Yisrael galoh yigleh me'al admato)—Amaziah will die in exile on unclean (טָמֵאָה, 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

Psalm 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

בְּעֵד יְרֵא אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱמֹרָה כִּי לְכָה |
H3651 H3541 Therefore thus saith the LORD Thy wife in the city
H559 H3068 H802 H5892

תִּזְבַּח	וְבָנֶיךָ	וְבָנָתֶיךָ	בְּכָרֶב	בְּכָרֶב	לֹא
shall be an harlot	and thy sons	and thy daughters	by the sword	shall fall	
H2181	H1121	H1323	H2719		H5307

אֶדְמָתוֹ מֵעַל אֶתְהָבָה בְּחַבְלָה תְּחַלֵּק אֶדְמָתוֹ:

and thy land by line shall be divided in and thy land

H127 H2256 H2505 H859 H5921 H127

וְיִגְלֶה הַיּוֹם וְתִפְרַח לְשָׁרָא וְתִפְרַח בְּמִזְאָה
go into captivity go into captivity and thou shalt die and Israel a polluted

אֶת-מִתְּנָהָךְ
in and thy land

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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