

Ezekiel 21:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall be, when they say unto thee, Wherefore sighest thou? that thou shalt answer, For the tidings; because it cometh: and every heart shall melt, and all hands shall be feeble, and every spirit shall faint, and all knees shall be weak as water: behold, it cometh, and shall be brought to pass, saith the Lord GOD.

Analysis

'And it shall be, when they say unto thee, Wherefore sighest thou? that thou shalt answer, For the tidings; because it cometh: and every heart shall melt, and all hands shall be feeble, and every spirit shall faint, and all knees shall be weak as water: behold, it cometh, and shall be brought to pass, saith the Lord GOD.' When people ask about his sighing, Ezekiel must explain: devastating news is coming. The description—hearts melting, hands feeble, spirits fainting, knees like water—depicts comprehensive terror and helplessness. 'Behold, it cometh, and shall be brought to pass' emphasizes absolute certainty. No escape, no prevention.

Historical Context

This describes the response when Jerusalem's fall became known. Ezekiel 33:21-22 records when a fugitive arrived announcing 'The city is smitten.' The news devastated the exiles who still hoped for quick deliverance. Their physical and emotional collapse fulfilled this prophecy exactly.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How should certainty of judgment affect our evangelistic urgency?
2. What does comprehensive human helplessness before divine judgment teach about the need for God's mercy?

Interlinear Text

וְנִתְהַיֵּת פָּה	כִּי	וְאִמְרָתָם	עַל אֶל יְהֹוָה
and shall be brought to pass	H3588	And it shall be when they say	H413
	H1961		H5921
אֶל הַמֶּלֶךְ	וְאִמְרָתָם	וְאֶל	וְאֶל
unto thee Wherefore sighest	H584	And it shall be when they say	H413
	H4100		H559
שְׁמֹועַ הָיָה	בָּאָה	כֹּל יָמִים	לְבָב
For the tidings	H3588	because it cometh	and every heart
	H8052		H3820
וְכַפֵּת הַיּוֹם	כֹּל וְכַפֵּת הַיּוֹם	כֹּל וְכַפֵּת הַר	וְכֹל
shall be feeble	H3605	and all hands	and every spirit
	H7503		H3605
בָּאָה הַיּוֹם	וְכַפֵּת הַיּוֹם	וְכַפֵּת הַר	וְכֹל
and all knees	H1980	as water	and every spirit
	H1290		H7307
וְנִתְהַיֵּת פָּה	וְאָמַרְתָּ	יְהוָה:	וְאָמַרְתָּ
and shall be brought to pass	H5002	saith	the Lord
	H1961		H136
			GOD
			H3069

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 7:17 (Parallel theme): All hands shall be feeble, and all knees shall be weak as water.

Hebrews 12:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

Isaiah 13:7 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:

Jeremiah 50:43 (Parallel theme): The king of Babylon hath heard the report of them, and his hands waxed feeble: anguish took hold of him, and pangs as of a woman in travail.

Nahum 2:10 (Parallel theme): She is empty, and void, and waste: and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, and much pain is in all loins, and the faces of them all gather blackness.

Ezekiel 7:26 (Parallel theme): Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients.

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