

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

וְנִהְיָ תָהּ and shall be brought to pass H1961	כִּי H3588	וְאָמְרָתָּ And it shall be when they say H559	עַל יְכֹ H413	אֶל H5921
אֶתְּ הָ מָה H4100	נֶאֱמָרְךָ H584	וְאָמְרָתָּ H559	אֶל H413	
שְׁמוּעָה For the tidings H8052	כִּי H3588	בָּאָה because it cometh H935	כָּל וְנִמָּס H3605	לֵב and every heart H3820
וְכַפּוּ shall be feeble H7503	כָּל H3605	וְכָל יָדִים and all hands H3027	כָּל וְנִמָּס H3605	וְכָל רוּחַ and every spirit H7307
וְכָל בְּרָכִים and all knees H1290	תֵּל כְּנֶה H1980	מִי כִי as water H4325	הֵי הָ H2009	בָּאָה because it cometh H935
וְנִהְיָ תָהּ and shall be brought to pass H1961	נֶאֱמָרְךָ H5002	יְהוָה the Lord H136	יְהוָה 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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