

Ezekiel 22:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.

Analysis

There is a conspiracy of her prophets (קֶשֶׁר נְבִיאֶיהָ, qesher nevi'eha)—the term qesher denotes treasonous plotting, used elsewhere for political coups (2 Kings 15:15). False prophets formed a corrupt cabal, acting **like a roaring lion ravening the prey** (כְּאַרְיֵה שׁוֹאֵג טֶרֶף טָרֶף). The predatory imagery exposes religious leaders who **devoured souls** (נֶפֶשׁ אַחְלִי, nefesh akhlu)—consuming lives for profit rather than shepherding.

They have made her many widows—through unjust executions and land seizures, these prophets destroyed families while enriching themselves with choser (חֹסֶר, treasure). Jesus later condemned scribes who 'devour widows' houses' (Mark 12:40), the same predatory religion.

Historical Context

Ezekiel prophesied from Babylonian exile (593-571 BC) against Jerusalem's leadership. False prophets like Hananiah (Jeremiah 28) promised peace while the city careened toward destruction. These religious con artists used divine claims to legitimize plunder, making them doubly culpable—both thieves and blasphemers.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do religious leaders today 'devour souls' through manipulation or exploitation for personal gain?
2. What distinguishes true prophetic ministry from the predatory 'conspiracy' Ezekiel denounces?

Interlinear Text

קִשְׁרָה	נְבִיאֵי יְהוָה	בְּתוֹכָהּ:	כְּאַרְיֵה	שׁוֹאֵג ג	
There is a conspiracy	of her prophets	in the midst	lion	thereof like a roaring	
H7195	H5030	H8432	H738	H7580	
טֹרֵף	טֶרֶף	נֶפְשׁוֹת	אֲכָלוּ	חֵן סֵן	יְקָרִים
ravens	the prey	souls	they have devoured	the treasure	and precious things
H2963	H2964	H5315	H398	H2633	H3366
יָקָחוּ	אֶלְמָנוֹתַי	הַרְבֵּי ו	בְּתוֹכָהּ:		
they have taken	widows	they have made her many	in the midst		
H3947	H490	H7235	H8432		

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 6:9 (Parallel theme): And as troops of robbers wait for a man, so the company of priests murder in the way by consent: for they commit lewdness.

Jeremiah 2:34 (Parallel theme): Also in thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents: I have not found it by secret search, but upon all these.

Jeremiah 11:9 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto me, A conspiracy is found among the men of Judah, and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 13:19 (Parallel theme): And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hear your lies?

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