

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 (קְשֵׁר נְבִיאֶיה, 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** (כְּאָרִי שׁוֹאֵג טְרֵף טְרֵף). The predatory imagery exposes religious leaders who **devoured souls** (נְפָשׁ אֲכַל),—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 (לֹoten, 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

שׁוֹא גַּם פָּארִי בְּתוֹכָהּ שָׁרֵךְ יְבִיאַי

There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof like a roaring lion

H7195

H5030

H8432

lion

H738

H7580

רַקְעַת נְפָשָׁת נְבָרֵךְ לֹא אָכַל כְּסֵלִים יְקַרְבָּן

ravaging the prey souls they have devoured the treasure and precious things

H2963

H2964

H5315

H398

H2633

H3366

בְּתוֹכָהּ יְבִיאַי חֹזֶק אַלְמָנוֹתָי!

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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