Isaiah 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> In that day shall he swear, saying, I will not be an healer; for in my house is neither bread nor clothing: make me not a ruler of the people.

Analysis

The refusal—'I will not be an healer'—indicates complete social breakdown when potential leaders reject responsibility. The acknowledgment of lacking food and clothing reveals economic devastation. The phrase 'make me not a ruler' shows that even desperate appeals cannot compel leadership in collapsed society. This reverses biblical patterns where God raises leaders (Judges 2:16); absent divine appointment, chaos reigns. It demonstrates that leadership is divine calling, not human presumption.

Historical Context

This scenario likely reflects post-exilic conditions where survivors faced overwhelming desolation. Without divine intervention to raise leaders like Zerubbabel and Nehemiah, restoration was impossible.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse inform our understanding of leadership as divine calling rather than personal ambition?
2. What 'healing' might God be calling us to attempt despite feeling inadequate?

Interlinear Text

יִשָּׂא	בַּיּוֹם	הַ ה וּא	לֵאמֹר	לֹא	אֶהְיֶ ה
shall he swear	In that day	H1931	saying	H3808	H1961
H5375	H3117		H559		

חֹבֵ ש	וּבְבֵיתִ י	אֵ ין	לֶ חֶם	וְאֵ ין	שִׂמְלָ ה
I will not be an healer	for in my house	H369	is neither bread	H369	nor clothing
H2280	H1004		H3899		H8071

לֹ א	תְשִׂימֵ נִי	קָצִ ין	עָם:
H3808	make	me not a ruler	of the people
	H7760	H7101	H5971

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 5:13 (Parallel theme): When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound.