

Isaiah 32:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Rise up, ye women that are at ease; hear my voice, ye careless daughters; give ear unto my speech.

Analysis

Rise up, ye women that are at ease (נָשִׁים שְׂאֲנָנוֹת קוּמָה, nashim sha'ananot qomenah)—the imperatives קוּמָה (qumah, rise up) addresses נָשִׁים (nashim, women) who are שְׂאֲנָנוֹת (sha'ananot, at ease, complacent, secure). **Hear my voice, ye careless daughters** (בָּנוֹת בֹּטְחוֹת הֶאֱזִינָה אִמְרָתִי, banot botech'ot ha'zenah imrati)—בָּנוֹת (banot, daughters) who are בֹּטְחוֹת (botech'ot, confident, careless), listen. **Give ear unto my speech** (שְׁמַעְנָה דְּבָרִי, shema'nah devaray).

Isaiah shifts from general principles (vv. 1-8) to specific prophetic warning. The 'women at ease' represents the complacent wealthy class in Jerusalem, living obliviously while judgment looms. The threefold command (rise up, hear, give ear) intensifies urgency. This echoes Amos 6:1—'Woe to them that are at ease in Zion.' Complacency amid impending crisis is spiritual stupor. Jesus warned: 'as the days of Noe were... eating, drinking, marrying... until the flood came' (Matthew 24:37-39). Ease and carelessness blind people to approaching judgment.

Historical Context

Judah's upper class enjoyed relative prosperity during Isaiah's early ministry. Women of means wore fine clothes, jewelry, perfumes (Isaiah 3:16-24). But Assyrian invasion threatened. Within years, many would lose husbands, sons, homes. Isaiah's warning targeted those most insulated from military concerns—aristocratic women who assumed security would continue. Their complacency proved fatal when Babylon later destroyed Jerusalem (586 BC).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What complacency or 'ease' in your life might be blinding you to spiritual realities or coming consequences?
2. How does material comfort sometimes dull awareness of God's warnings?
3. What would it mean for you to 'rise up' from spiritual complacency to attentive obedience?

Interlinear Text

נָשִׁים	שְׂאֵנָה וְ	קוּמִי מִן	שִׁמְעִי עֲנֵה	קוֹלִי	בָנוֹת	בְּטֹחַ וְ
ye women	that are at ease	Rise up	hear	my voice	daughters	ye careless
H802	H7600	H6965	H8085	H6963	H1323	H982
הָאִזְנוֹת	אֶמְרֹתַי					
give ear	unto my speech					
H238	H565					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 3:16 (Parallel theme): Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet:

Isaiah 28:23 (Parallel theme): Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech.

Matthew 13:9 (Parallel theme): Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.