

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 שָׁאָנָנוֹת קָמָתָה (nashim sha'anot qomenah)—the imperatives קָמָתָה (qumah, rise up) addresses נָשִׁים (nashim, women) who are **at ease** (sha'anot, at ease, complacent, secure). **Hear my voice, ye careless daughters** בָּנֹות בּוֹתְחֹת פָּאָזָה אַמְּתָתִי (banot botech'ot ha'zenah imrati)—**daughters** (banot, daughters) who are **careless** (botech'ot, confident, careless), listen. **Give ear unto my speech** שִׁמְעָנָה 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

בְּתָחַת וְתַּחַת	בְּנָוֹת	קְוָלָה	שְׁמַע עֲנָה	קְרָנָה	שְׁאָנָה וְתַּחַת	נְשָׁוִם
ye careless	daughters	my voice	hear	Rise up	that are at ease	ye women
H982	H1323	H6963	H8085	H6965	H7600	H802

בְּאַז בָּה	אִמְרָתִי
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.