

Isaiah 4:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.

Analysis

The desperation of seven women seeking one man reverses typical marriage patterns, illustrating the devastating male population loss from war (3:25). Their offer to provide their own sustenance ('eat our own bread...wear our own apparel') and merely seek to remove reproach shows cultural stigma of childlessness. This depicts covenant curse outworking (Deuteronomy 28:30, 62), yet also transitions to restoration hope (4:2-6) as the purified remnant emerges from judgment.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern culture valued progeny highly; childlessness brought shame. The numerical disproportion (seven to one) reflects catastrophic military losses leaving few marriageable men.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do social reversals and upheavals reveal the depth of divine judgment?
2. What 'reproach' drives us to desperate seeking of what only God can provide?

Interlinear Text

בָּהָא	בַּיִם	בַּאַיִל	בַּאַחֲד	בַּיּוֹם	וְבַיּוֹם
shall take hold	seven	women	man	of one	And in that day
H2388	H7651	H802	H376	H259	H1931
בְּקָרְבָּנְבָּשׂ	לְחִמָּנְנָה	נְאָכָל	וְשִׁמְלָתָנוּ	נְאָכָל	לְאָמָר
saying	our own bread	We will eat	our own apparel	and wear	H7535
H559	H3899	H398	H8071	H3847	
אֶלְעָלָנָנוּ	שְׁמַךְ	אֶלְעָלָנָנוּ	שְׁמַךְ	חִרְפְּתָנוּ	
only let us be called	by thy name	H5921	to take away	our reproach	
H7121	H8034		H622	H2781	

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 30:23 (Parallel theme): And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach:

Isaiah 2:17 (Parallel theme): And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Isaiah 13:12 (Parallel theme): I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

Luke 21:22 (Parallel theme): For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

Luke 1:25 (Parallel theme): Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

Isaiah 17:7 (Parallel theme): At that day shall a man look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel.

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