

Isaiah 47:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:

Analysis

The self-deification 'I am, and none else beside me' parodies God's covenant name (Exodus 3:14) and claims absolute autonomy. The boasts 'I shall not sit as a widow' and 'I shall not know the loss of children' deny vulnerability and dependence, which are inevitable in a fallen world. This epitomizes unregenerate humanity's pretension to god-like self-sufficiency.

Historical Context

Babylon's goddess Ishtar claimed to prevent widowhood and child-loss, and the city's massive defensive system seemed to guarantee security. The sudden overthrow by Cyrus demonstrated the futility of both religious and military self-confidence.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. In what subtle ways do you echo Babylon's 'I am' boast in areas of life where you feel self-sufficient?
2. How does recognizing your inevitable 'widowhood' and 'loss' drive you to depend on God?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה ה	שְׁמָעִי	זֶה אַתָּה	עֲדִינָה	
H6258	Therefore hear	H2063	now this thou that art given to pleasures	
	H8085		H5719	
אֲשֶׁב	לִבִּי טָח	הָאֵמָרָה	בְּלִבִּי בָהּ	אֲנִי
beside me I shall not sit	carelessly	that sayest	in thine heart	
H3427	H983	H559	H3824	H589
וְאֶפְסִי	לֹא עִיד	אֲשֶׁב	אֶלְמָנָה הִיא	וְלֹא אֶלְמָנָה
I am and none else	H5750	H3808	beside me I shall not sit	as a widow
H657		H3427	H490	H3808
אֲדַע	שְׂכֹל:			
neither shall I know	the loss of children			
H3045	H7908			

Additional Cross-References

Zephaniah 2:15 (Parallel theme): This is the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, I am, and there is none beside me: how is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! every one that passeth by her shall hiss, and wag his hand.

Isaiah 32:9 (Parallel theme): Rise up, ye women that are at ease; hear my voice, ye careless daughters; give ear unto my speech.

Isaiah 47:10 (Parallel theme): For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.

Isaiah 45:6 (Parallel theme): That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.

Jeremiah 50:11 (Parallel theme): Because ye were glad, because ye rejoiced, O ye destroyers of mine heritage, because ye are grown fat as the heifer at grass, and bellow as bulls;