

Jeremiah 11:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

What hath my beloved to do in mine house, seeing she hath wrought lewdness with many, and the holy flesh is passed from thee? when thou doest evil, then thou rejoicest.

Analysis

This verse questions Israel's temple confidence: 'What hath my beloved to do in mine house, seeing she hath wrought lewdness with many?' The Hebrew yedidah (יְדִידָה, beloved) is an affectionate term for Israel, making the accusation more poignant. 'My house' (beithi) is the temple. 'Lewdness' (mezimmah) means schemes, plots, wicked purposes—here applied to syncretistic worship. Israel comes to God's house while practicing idolatry—spiritual adultery attending the husband's home. 'And the holy flesh is passed from thee' indicates sacrificial meat (basar haqqodesh) no longer benefits them. 'When thou doest evil, then thou rejoicest.' They celebrate even while sinning—combining religious observance with moral rebellion.

Historical Context

Jeremiah 7 elaborates this temple critique—trusting in 'lying words' about the temple's inviolability while violating covenant commands. Israel presumed that ritual observance and temple presence guaranteed divine favor regardless of ethical behavior. The prophets consistently rejected such mechanical religion (Isaiah 1:10-17, Amos 5:21-24, Micah 6:6-8).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How can religious activity coexist with spiritual adultery, and what makes this combination so offensive?
2. What does the question 'what has my beloved to do in my house?' reveal about God's wounded love?

Interlinear Text

בְּבַיִתِי לִידֵיךְ הָשׁוֹתָה
H4100 What hath my beloved to do in mine house seeing she hath wrought
H3039 H1004 H6213

תָּהַרְתָּ בְּשֶׁר יְמִינְךָ וְלֹא־קָרְבָּנָה כַּפְרִזְבָּתָה
H4209 H7227 H1320 H6944 H5674 H5921 H3588
lewdness with many flesh and the holy is passed

כִּי מַעַלְתָּךְ יַעֲבֹר וְלֹא־כָּעֵתְךָ
from thee when thou doest evil H227 H5937
then thou rejoicest

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 2:14 (Evil): Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;

Titus 1:15 (Parallel theme): Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

