

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 (יְדִידָהּ, 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

מָה	לִידִידִי	בְּבֵיתִי	עֲשׂוֹתָהּ		
H4100	What hath my beloved	to do in mine house	seeing she hath wrought		
	H3039	H1004	H6213		
הַמְזֻמָּה	הַרְבֵּי יָם	וּבָשָׂר	קִדְשׁ	יַעֲבֹר וְ	מַעַל יָרָא
lewdness	with many	flesh	and the holy	is passed	
H4209	H7227	H1320	H6944	H5674	H5921
					H3588
רַעֲתִי כִי	אֶזְ	תַּעֲלִזִי:			
from thee when thou doest evil	H227	then thou rejoicest			
H7451		H5937			

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.

