

Jeremiah 12:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For even thy brethren, and the house of thy father, even they have dealt treacherously with thee; yea, they have called a multitude after thee: believe them not, though they speak fair words unto thee.

Analysis

This verse reveals family treachery: 'For even thy brethren, and the house of thy father, even they have dealt treacherously with thee.' The Hebrew *achekha* (אָחֵיךָ, your brothers) and *beit avikha* (בֵּית אָבִיךָ, your father's house) indicate closest family. 'Dealt treacherously' (*bagdu*, from *bagad*—betray) describes covenant violation within family. 'Yea, they have called a multitude after thee.' They rallied others against Jeremiah—organizing opposition. 'Believe them not, though they speak fair words unto thee.' Even kind words conceal hostile intent. The ultimate test awaits: not strangers but family will oppose him.

Historical Context

This revelation answers verse 1's complaint by exposing deeper betrayal than Jeremiah knew. His own family participated in the Anathoth conspiracy. This fulfills Jesus' later teaching that prophetic faithfulness divides families (Matthew 10:34-36, Luke 12:51-53). The warning not to trust 'fair words' from family indicates sophisticated deception—smiles hiding murder plots.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why might family opposition be especially painful for faithful servants of God?
2. How does family betrayal fulfill Jesus' later teaching about division caused by following Him?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	גַם	אֶתְּ יְרֵךְ	וּבֵית	אֶבְיָךְ יְרֵךְ	גַּם	יְהוָה
H3588	H1571	For even thy brethren	and the house	of thy father	H1571	H1992
		H251	H1004	H1		
		בְּגִדֹו	בְּיָדְךָ	גַּם	יְהוָה	
		even they have dealt treacherously	H0	H1571	H1992	
		H898				
	קָרָא וְ	אַחֲרֵי יְרֵךְ	מְלֵי א	אֵל	תִּאֲמְרוּ	בְּכֵן
	with thee yea they have called	after	a multitude	H408	thee believe	H0
	H7121	H310	H4392		H539	
כִּי	יְדַבֵּר וְ	אֵל יְרֵךְ	טוֹבוֹת:			
H3588	them not though they speak	H413	fair words			
	H1696		H2896			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 26:25 (Faith): When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart.

Jeremiah 9:4 (Faith): Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders.

Psalms 12:2 (Parallel theme): They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.

Matthew 10:21 (Parallel theme): And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

Jeremiah 11:21 (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the LORD of the men of Anathoth, that seek thy life, saying, Prophecy not in the name of the LORD, that thou die not by our hand:

Jeremiah 11:19 (Parallel theme): But I was like a lamb or an ox that is brought to the slaughter; and I knew not that they had devised devices against me, saying, Let us destroy the tree with the fruit thereof, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be no more remembered.

Acts 18:12 (Parallel theme): And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat,

Psalms 69:8 (Parallel theme): I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children.

Job 6:15 (Parallel theme): My brethren have dealt deceitfully as a brook, and as the stream of brooks they pass away;

Jeremiah 20:10 (Parallel theme): For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, say they, and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, saying, Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him.