

Jeremiah 12:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have forsaken mine house, I have left mine heritage; I have given the dearly beloved of my soul into the hand of her enemies.

Analysis

This verse shifts to divine lament: 'I have forsaken mine house, I have left mine heritage; I have given the dearly beloved of my soul into the hand of her enemies.' God speaks of abandoning 'my house' (beti—temple and nation), 'my heritage' (nachalati—His special possession), 'dearly beloved of my soul' (yediduth nafshi—intensely affectionate language). This isn't cold judicial pronouncement but anguished divine grief. God reluctantly, sorrowfully withdraws protection, allowing enemies to devastate what He loves. The verse reveals God's pain in judgment—He doesn't delight in destruction (Ezekiel 33:11) but grieves necessity.

Historical Context

This section (12:7-13) represents God's lament over Judah's judgment. The affectionate terms ('heritage,' 'dearly beloved') emphasize the relationship being severed. The 'house' includes both temple and nation. Similar divine grief appears in Hosea 11:8-9. The Babylonian conquest wasn't divine cruelty but grieving necessity after exhausted patience.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does God's use of affectionate terms while announcing judgment reveal about His heart?
2. How does divine grief in judgment differ from capricious or vindictive punishment?

Interlinear Text

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| נָתַן | תְּכִיָּה | נְחִילָתִי | אֶת | בֵּטָן | שְׁתִי | בֵּית | אֶת | עַזְיָה | בְּתִי |
| I have forsaken | H853 | mine house | I have left | H853 | mine heritage | I have given | | | |
| H5800 | | H1004 | H5203 | | H5159 | | | | H5414 |
| אֶת | דְּלִילָה | וְתָ | נְפָשָׁה | בְּכָךְ | רָא | אֶבְיָה: | | | |
| H853 | the dearly beloved | of my soul | into the hand | H3709 | H341 | of her enemies | | | |
| | H3033 | H5315 | | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 2:6 (Parallel theme): Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers.

Jeremiah 11:15 (Love): 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.

Hosea 9:15 (Love): All their wickedness is in Gilgal: for there I hated them: for the wickedness of their doings I will drive them out of mine house, I will love them no more: all their princes are revolters.