

Jeremiah 13:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For as the girdle cleaveth to the loins of a man, so have I caused to cleave unto me the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah, saith the LORD; that they might be unto me for a people, and for a name, and for a praise, and for a glory: but they would not hear.

Analysis

This verse explains the girdle symbolism: 'For as the girdle cleaveth to the loins of a man, so have I caused to cleave unto me the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah, saith the LORD.' The verb *davaq* (דָּבַק, cleave, cling) describes intimate attachment—same word used for marriage in Genesis 2:24. God made Israel 'cleave' to Him with intimate closeness like an undergarment against skin. 'That they might be unto me for a people, and for a name, and for a praise, and for a glory.' Four purposes: people (*am*), name (*shem*), praise (*tehillah*), glory (*tiph'ereh*). Israel was to be God's close possession, bringing Him honor. 'But they would not hear.' The tragic conclusion—they refused intimate relationship.

Historical Context

The girdle's intimate placement (against skin) represented God's desire for close relationship with Israel. The four purposes (people, name, praise, glory) echo election language throughout Deuteronomy and Isaiah. Israel was meant to display God's glory to the nations, bearing His name honorably. Instead, like the ruined girdle, they became worthless through corruption, failing their created purpose.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does the undergarment imagery reveal about God's desire for intimate relationship with His people?
2. How do the four purposes (people, name, praise, glory) describe Israel's intended role?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	כְּאַשֶׁר	הִדְבַּ קִּטִּי	הָאֵז וֹר	אֶל	מִתְּנִי	אֶיֶשׁ	כִּי
H3588	H834	cleaveth	For as the girdle	H413	to the loins	of a man	H3651
		H1692	H232		H4975	H376	
הִדְבַּ קִּטִּי	אֶל לִי	אֶת	כָּל	בֵּית	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וְאֶת	כָּל
cleaveth	H413	H853	H3605	and the whole house	of Israel	H853	H3605
H1692				H1004	H3478		
בֵּית	יְהוּדָה	נֹאֵם	יְהוָה	לֵהִי	וְתֵ		
and the whole house	of Judah	saith	the LORD	H1961	H0		
H1004	H3063	H5002	H3068				
לְעַם	וּלְשֵׁם	וּלְתִהְלֵלָהּ					
that they might be unto me for a people	and for a name	and for a praise					
H5971	H8034	H8416					
וּלְתִפְאָרָתָהּ	וְלֹא	שָׁמְעוּ:					
and for a glory	H3808	but they would not hear					
H8597		H8085					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 33:9 (Resurrection): And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

Isaiah 43:21 (Resurrection): This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.

Psalms 81:11 (References Israel): But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me.

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