

Jeremiah 13:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Say unto the king and to the queen, Humble yourselves, sit down: for your principalities shall come down, even the crown of your glory.

Analysis

This verse addresses the royal house: 'Say unto the king and to the queen, Humble yourselves, sit down: for your principalities shall come down, even the crown of your glory.' 'King and queen' (melek vegebirah) are the ruling monarch and queen mother (who held significant power). 'Humble yourselves' (hashpilu) means to bring low, descend. 'Sit down' (shevu) from exalted position to low status. 'Crown of your glory' (atereth tiph'artekhem) will 'come down'—royal dignity stripped away. The royal family, the nation's highest status, will be humiliated. Pride in political position will be broken.

Historical Context

The 'queen' (gebirah) in Judah was typically the queen mother, who held formal court position and influence (1 Kings 15:13, 2 Kings 10:13). This oracle may date to Jehoiachin's reign, when his mother Nehushta was deported with him (2 Kings 24:8, 12, 15). The royal house's humiliation in exile fulfilled this prophecy precisely—stripped of crowns, led captive to Babylon.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why does Jeremiah specifically address both king and queen mother?
2. What does the command to 'humble yourselves' indicate about the source of coming humiliation?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	לִמֶּלֶךְ	וְלַמַּלְכָּה	הִשְׁפָּלְוּ	שֵׁבוּ	כִּי
Say	unto the king	and to the queen	Humble	yourselves sit down	H3588
H559	H4428	H1377	H8213	H3427	
יָבֹד	מִמְּרָאשׁ וְתִיכָם	עַד כֵּת	תִּפְאֶרֶתְכֶם:		
shall come down	for your principalities	even the crown	of your glory		
H3381	H4761	H5850	H8597		

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 22:26 (Parallel theme): And I will cast thee out, and thy mother that bare thee, into another country, where ye were not born; and there shall ye die.

2 Kings 24:12 (Kingdom): And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign.

2 Kings 24:15 (Kingdom): And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon, and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, those carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon.

2 Chronicles 33:19 (Parallel theme): His prayer also, and how God was intreated of him, and all his sin, and his trespass, and the places wherein he built high places, and set up groves and graven images, before he was humbled: behold, they are written among the sayings of the seers.

Isaiah 47:1 (Parallel theme): Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate.

2 Chronicles 33:12 (Parallel theme): And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,

Isaiah 3:26 (Parallel theme): And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she being desolate shall sit upon the ground.

Exodus 10:3 (Parallel theme): And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.

Matthew 18:4 (Kingdom): Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Jonah 3:6 (Kingdom): For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.