

Jeremiah 13:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if thou say in thine heart, Wherefore come these things upon me? For the greatness of thine iniquity are thy skirts discovered, and thy heels made bare.

Analysis

This verse addresses internal response: 'And if thou say in thine heart, Wherefore come these things upon me?' The internal question represents confused self-justification—why is this happening to me? 'For the greatness of thine iniquity are thy skirts discovered, and thy heels made bare.' The Hebrew imagery is of shameful exposure—skirts lifted, heels exposed. This represents the shame of captivity (prisoners stripped, women violated) resulting from 'greatness of iniquity' (rob awonek). The answer to 'why' is sin—not mysterious fate but moral cause. Shame corresponds to sin; suffering matches iniquity.

Historical Context

Conquered peoples were often stripped, women raped, prisoners led naked—ultimate public humiliation. This fate awaited Jerusalem's inhabitants. The theological explanation is straightforward: covenant violation produces covenant curse. The question 'why' has a clear answer: sin. This interpretive framework would help exiles understand their suffering as deserved judgment rather than divine abandonment.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Why do people ask 'why' about suffering while ignoring the 'why' of their sin?
2. How does understanding suffering as consequence of sin provide meaning during judgment?

Interlinear Text

וְכִי יִ	תֹּאמַרְי	בְּלִבְךָ	מִדַּע	קֹכֵחַ נִי	אֵלֶּה
H3588	And if thou say	in thine heart	H4069	Wherefore come	H428
	H559	H3824		H7122	
	בְּרַב	עוֹנֶיךָ	נִגְלָו	שׁוּלֵי יְךָ	
	these things upon me	For the greatness	of thine iniquity	discovered	are thy skirts
	H7230	H5771	H1540	H7757	
נַחֲמָס וְ	עֲקֵבֶיךָ:				
made bare	and thy heels				
H2554	H6119				

Additional Cross-References

Nahum 3:5 (Parallel theme): Behold, I am against thee, saith the LORD of hosts; and I will discover thy skirts upon thy face, and I will shew the nations thy nakedness, and the kingdoms thy shame.

Jeremiah 5:19 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, when ye shall say, Wherefore doeth the LORD our God all these things unto us? then shalt thou answer them, Like as ye have forsaken me, and served strange gods in your land, so shall ye serve strangers in a land that is not your's.

Jeremiah 13:26 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I discover thy skirts upon thy face, that thy shame may appear.

Deuteronomy 7:17 (Parallel theme): If thou shalt say in thine heart, These nations are more than I; how can I dispossess them?

Hosea 2:10 (Parallel theme): And now will I discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of mine hand.

Lamentations 1:8 (Sin): Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she is removed: all that honoured her despise her, because they have seen her nakedness: yea, she sigheth, and turneth backward.

Isaiah 3:17 (Parallel theme): Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org