

Jeremiah 13:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have seen thine adulteries, and thy neighings, the lewdness of thy whoredom, and thine abominations on the hills in the fields. Woe unto thee, O Jerusalem! wilt thou not be made clean? when shall it once be?

Analysis

This verse concludes with accusation: 'I have seen thine adulteries, and thy neighings, the lewdness of thy whoredom, and thine abominations on the hills in the fields.' 'Adulteries' (ni'uphayikh) represents spiritual unfaithfulness/idolatry. 'Neighings' (mitzhaloth) compares Israel to horses in heat, lustfully pursuing idols (compare 5:8). 'Lewdness' (zimmah) and 'whoredom' (zenuth) continue the sexual/spiritual metaphor. 'Abominations on hills and fields' (to'avotayikh al-gevao'th basadeh) identifies the location of idolatrous worship—high places and open-air shrines throughout the land. God has witnessed everything. 'Woe unto thee, O Jerusalem! wilt thou not be made clean? when shall it once be?' The Hebrew ad-matay (עַד-עַת, until when) expresses divine longing for purification—how long before Jerusalem will be cleansed?

Historical Context

The catalog of sins summarizes chapter 13's accusations and the broader Jeremiah indictment. God 'sees' what they try to hide; high places and field shrines are fully known. The final question—'when shall it once be?'—reveals divine desire for their cleansing, not simply their destruction. Even in judgment pronouncement, longing for restoration appears.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does God's question 'when will you be made clean?' reveal about His heart in judgment?
2. How does the comprehensive list of witnessed sins remove any possibility of denial or excuse?

Interlinear Text

עַל זָנוֹתֶךָ וּמְצֻפּוֹתֶךָ תִּפְנַתְּךָ וְאֶפְרַתָּךָ
thy adulteries and thy neighings the lewdness of thy whoredom H5921
H5004 H4684 H2154 H2184

לֹא אָוֶן גְּבֻעוֹת בְּשָׂדֶךָ בְּאַיִתִי שְׁקָוָץ יְלִלְךָ
on the hills in the fields I have seen and thine abominations Woe H0
H1389 H7704 H7200 H8251 H188

מִתְּמֻמָּת אַתְּ לֹא תִּפְנַתְּךָ וְשַׁלֵּם
unto thee O Jerusalem wilt thou not be made clean H310 H4970
H3808 H2891

עַד:
when shall it once
H5750

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 65:7 (Parallel theme): Your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, saith the LORD, which have burned incense upon the mountains, and

blasphemed me upon the hills: therefore will I measure their former work into their bosom.

Ezekiel 6:13 (Parallel theme): Then shall ye know that I am the LORD, when their slain men shall be among their idols round about their altars, upon every high hill, in all the tops of the mountains, and under every green tree, and under every thick oak, the place where they did offer sweet savour to all their idols.

Ezekiel 24:13 (Parallel theme): In thy filthiness is lewdness: because I have purged thee, and thou wast not purged, thou shalt not be purged from thy filthiness any more, till I have caused my fury to rest upon thee.

Hosea 8:5 (Parallel theme): Thy calf, O Samaria, hath cast thee off; mine anger is kindled against them: how long will it be ere they attain to innocency?

Proverbs 1:22 (Parallel theme): How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

Ezekiel 36:37 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock.

Hosea 4:2 (Parallel theme): By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.