

Jeremiah 14:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O LORD, though our iniquities testify against us, do thou it for thy name's sake: for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against thee.

Analysis

Jeremiah intercedes despite God's earlier prohibition (14:10-12 will explain why this prayer fails): 'O LORD, though our iniquities testify against us, do thou it for thy name's sake.' The confession 'our iniquities testify against us' acknowledges guilt. Yet the appeal is to God's 'name's sake'—His reputation and character. The confession continues: 'for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against thee.' This represents proper prayer: confessing sin while appealing to God's character rather than human merit. The plea is not based on innocence but on God's covenant faithfulness and concern for His glory among nations.

Historical Context

Prophetic intercession often appealed to God's name/reputation (Exodus 32:11-13; Numbers 14:13-19). If Israel perished, pagan nations might conclude Yahweh was weak or unfaithful to His promises.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does appealing to God's name/glory differ from appealing to our own merit?
2. What role does confession of sin play in authentic prayer?
3. How can we pray with boldness while acknowledging our unworthiness?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	עָוֹגִים יְכוֹנֵן	בְּנֵי עָשָׂה	יְהִתְהַלֵּל בְּנֵי עָשָׂה	עָשָׂה הַמְּעַנֵּן
H518	though our iniquities H5771	testify H6030	O LORD H3068	against us do H6213
לְבָנָם בְּשָׁמְךָ יְהוָה	מִשְׁׁוֹבְבָתִים יְנוּן	בְּבָבָלִים	לְבָנָם בְּשָׁמְךָ יְהוָה	מִשְׁׁוֹבְבָתִים יְנוּן
thou it for thy name's H8034	are many H3588	sake for our backslidings H7231	H4878	H0
חַטָּאתֵנוּ:				
we have sinned H2398				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 25:11 (Sin): For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great.

Hosea 5:5 (Sin): And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them.

Isaiah 59:12 (Sin): For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them;

Jeremiah 5:6 (Sin): Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, and a wolf of the evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backslidings are increased.

Jeremiah 2:19 (References Lord): Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

Ephesians 1:6 (Parallel theme): To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Ephesians 1:12 (Parallel theme): That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Hosea 7:10 (References Lord): And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all this.

Psalms 115:1 (References Lord): Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

Jeremiah 3:6 (References Lord): The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot.