

Jeremiah 15:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Woe is me, my mother, that thou hast borne me a man of strife and a man of contention to the whole earth! I have neither lent on usury, nor men have lent to me on usury; yet every one of them doth curse me.

Analysis

This verse begins Jeremiah's personal lament: 'Woe is me, my mother, that thou hast borne me a man of strife and a man of contention to the whole earth!' The Hebrew *oi li* (אֵי לִי, woe to me) opens personal complaint. 'Man of strife' (*ish riv*) and 'man of contention' (*ish madon*) describe his experience as constant conflict. 'To the whole earth' (*lekhol ha'arets*) indicates universal opposition. 'I have neither lent on usury, nor men have lent to me on usury; yet every one of them doth curse me.' Jeremiah protests his innocence—he hasn't created economic conflict through usury (common source of strife), yet everyone curses him. His suffering is for proclaiming truth, not for personal wrongdoing.

Historical Context

This verse begins Jeremiah's third personal lament (15:10-21). The prophet's life was defined by opposition—cursed by his own people, persecuted by religious establishment, rejected by royal court. The usury reference addresses common sources of social conflict; Jeremiah is innocent of such causes for opposition. His curse comes solely from faithful prophetic ministry.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Jeremiah's lament about being 'born for strife' reflect the cost of prophetic ministry?
2. What does his protestation of innocence (no usury) reveal about the source of his suffering?

Interlinear Text

אֲוִי	לִי	אִמִּי	כִּי	יִלְדָתְךָ	וְאִישׁ	רִיב
Woe	H0	is me my mother	H3588	that thou hast borne	and a man	of strife
H188		H517		H3205	H376	H7379
וְאִישׁ	מִדּוֹן	לְכָל	הָאָרֶץ	לֹא		
and a man	of contention	H3605	to the whole earth	H3808		
H376	H4066		H776			
נִשְׁוֹ	וְלֹא	נִשְׁוֹ	כָּל הָבָי			
I have neither lent on usury	H3808	I have neither lent on usury	H0	H3605		
H5383		H5383				
מְקַלְלֵי אוֹנִי:						
yet every one of them doth curse						
H7043						

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 22:25 (Parallel theme): If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury.

Luke 6:22 (Parallel theme): Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

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