

Jeremiah 15:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I sat not in the assembly of the mockers, nor rejoiced; I sat alone because of thy hand: for thou hast filled me with indignation.

Analysis

Jeremiah returns to complaint/prayer: 'O LORD, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors.' The appeal 'thou knowest' assumes God's omniscience of Jeremiah's suffering. Three requests: 'remember me' (don't forget my plight), 'visit me' (intervene on my behalf), 'revenge me of my persecutors' (execute justice). The plea 'take me not away in thy longsuffering' asks that God's patience with persecutors not result in Jeremiah's death before vindication. The final appeal: 'know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke.' Jeremiah's suffering comes from faithful service, not personal sin. This imprecatory prayer seeks God's justice against those opposing His word.

Historical Context

Jeremiah faced constant persecution: imprisonment, death threats, beatings, and plots against his life from those who rejected his message. His appeals for vindication against persecutors reflect legitimate desire for God's justice.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How should believers understand imprecatory prayers for God's judgment on persecutors?
2. What does 'for thy sake I have suffered rebuke' teach about the cost of faithful ministry?
3. When is appeal for divine vindication appropriate versus when should we simply bear persecution patiently?

Interlinear Text

מִפְנִים וְתַאֲעַל זֶה מִשְׁפָּקָה יְמִינָה לֹא

H3808 I sat not in the assembly of the mockers nor rejoiced because
H3427 H5475 H7832 H5937 H6440

מִלְאָתָנִים: זֶה עַמְּךָ יְשַׁבֵּת דָּבָר

of thy hand alone I sat H3588 me with indignation for thou hast filled
H3027 H910 H3427 H2195 H4390

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 1:1 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Lamentations 3:28 (Parallel theme): He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne it upon him.

Psalms 102:7 (Parallel theme): I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top.

Jeremiah 6:11 (Parallel theme): Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD; I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad, and upon the assembly of young men together: for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with him that is full of days.

Jeremiah 13:17 (Parallel theme): But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the LORD'S flock is carried away captive.

2 Corinthians 6:17 (Parallel theme): Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org