

Jeremiah 15:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the LORD, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me: and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them.

Analysis

Jeremiah protests his isolation: '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.' His separation from 'mockers' was deliberate—faithfulness to God necessitated separation from the ungodly. The phrase 'I sat alone' describes the loneliness of prophetic ministry. The cause: 'thy hand'—God's calling isolated him. Being 'filled with indignation' means carrying God's righteous anger against sin, making fellowship with sin-celebrating people impossible. This illustrates the cost of holiness: separation from worldly companionship. The Reformed tradition values this holy separation while guarding against pharisaical isolation.

Historical Context

Prophets often lived isolated lives due to their unpopular messages and calls to holiness. Jeremiah's celibacy (Jeremiah 16:1-2) and separation from normal social life symbolized coming judgment.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does prophetic loneliness teach about the cost of faithful ministry?
2. How do we balance holy separation from sin with evangelistic engagement with sinners?
3. What does being 'filled with indignation' over sin look like in contemporary Christian life?

Interlinear Text

כֹּה לֵךְ H3651	אָמַר H3541	Therefore thus saith H559	יְהוָה H3068	אִם H518	תָּשׁוּב H7725	תָּשׁוּב H7725
לִפְנֵי י' H6440	וְתַעֲמֹד H5975	אֵלַי H518	וְאִם H518	תִּתֵּן יָא H3318	וְתָשׁוּב H7725	הַיָּקָר H3368
מִזֵּל ל H2151	כִּפֹּי H6310	תְּהִי H1961	וְתָשׁוּב H7725	וְתָשׁוּב H7725	וְתָשׁוּב H7725	וְתָשׁוּב H1992
אֵלַי יְיָ H413	וְאִתִּי H859	לֹא H3808	תָּשׁוּב H7725	אֵלַי H413	אֵלַי H413	אֵלַי H413

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 3:7 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.

Ezekiel 44:23 (Parallel theme): And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.

Leviticus 10:10 (Parallel theme): And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;

Luke 21:15 (Parallel theme): For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

Ezekiel 22:26 (Parallel theme): Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

Jude 1:24 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Hebrews 5:14 (Parallel theme): But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Acts 20:27 (Parallel theme): For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

Jeremiah 15:1 (References Lord): Then said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth.

Exodus 4:12 (Parallel theme): Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.