

Jeremiah 15:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For who shall have pity upon thee, O Jerusalem? or who shall bemoan thee? or who shall go aside to ask how thou doest?

Analysis

This verse expresses divine disengagement: 'For who shall have pity upon thee, O Jerusalem? or who shall bemoan thee? or who shall go aside to ask of thy welfare?' Three rhetorical questions expect answer 'no one.' 'Pity' (chamal, חָמַל) is tender compassion; 'bemoan' (nud, נָדַד) is to shake the head in sympathy; 'ask of welfare' (sha'al leshalom) is standard greeting inquiry. Jerusalem will find no sympathy, no mourning, no concerned inquiry. The isolation is complete—friends and allies abandon the judged city. Even God, who expressed such grief in 12:7-13, now announces Jerusalem's abandonment by all.

Historical Context

During Babylon's final siege, no ally came to Jerusalem's aid. Egypt, which Judah had courted against Jeremiah's warnings, briefly approached but withdrew (Jeremiah 37:5-11). The nations Jerusalem had cultivated abandoned her to destruction. International isolation compounded military catastrophe.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does universal abandonment—no pity, no mourning, no inquiry—add to judgment's weight?
2. How does isolation from human sympathy intensify the experience of divine judgment?

Interlinear Text

כִּי H3588	יְהִי לִי H4310	יְהִי לִי H2550	עַל יְרוּשָׁלַם H5921	יְרוּשָׁלַם H3389	וְיָמִי H4310
		For who shall have pity		upon thee O Jerusalem	
	יְנֹד H5110	וְיָמִי לְךָ H0	יֵסֹר H5493	לְשֹׂא לֵךְ H7592	
		or who shall bemoan		thee or who shall go aside	to ask
		לְשֹׂא לֵךְ H7965			
		how thou doest			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 51:19 (Parallel theme): These two things are come unto thee; who shall be sorry for thee? desolation, and destruction, and the famine, and the sword: by whom shall I comfort thee?

Nahum 3:7 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that all they that look upon thee shall flee from thee, and say, Nineveh is laid waste: who will bemoan her? whence shall I seek comforters for thee?

Jeremiah 21:7 (Parallel theme): And afterward, saith the LORD, I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah, and his servants, and the people, and such as are left in this city from the pestilence, from the sword, and from the famine, into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those that seek their life: and he shall smite them with the edge of the sword; he shall not spare them, neither have pity, nor have mercy.

Psalms 69:20 (Parallel theme): Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none.

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