

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, חָמָל) 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

וְנִזְמַן לְיִחְמַל עַל יְהוָה וְנִזְמַן כִּי
H3588 H4310 For who shall have pity H2550 H5921 upon thee O Jerusalem H4310
or who shall bemoan H5110 H0 H4310 thee or who shall go aside H5493 H3389
how thou doest H7965 H0

לְשָׁאָל לְבָנָה וְנִזְמַן כִּי
H7592 to ask H5493

לְשָׁלֵם
H0

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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