

Jeremiah 15:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Their widows are increased to me above the sand of the seas:
I have brought upon them against the mother of the young
men a spoiler at noonday: I have caused him to fall upon it
suddenly, and terrors upon the city.

Analysis

This verse quantifies widow suffering: 'Their widows are increased to me above the sand of the seas.' The Hebrew rabbu (רַבּוּ, increased, multiplied) with 'above the sand of the seas' (mechol yammim) indicates innumerable widows—mass male mortality in warfare. 'I have brought upon them against the mother of the young men a spoiler at noonday.' The 'mother' (em bachur) represents families losing their young men. 'Spoiler at noonday' (shodded batsohorayim) indicates attack in broad daylight—no hiding, no escape, no night protection. 'I have caused him to fall upon it suddenly, and terrors upon the city.' Sudden (pitom) attack brings terror (behaloth). The psychological impact of sudden destruction compounds physical devastation.

Historical Context

Ancient warfare regularly left massive widow populations. Young men died in battle; women survived into widowhood. 'Spoiler at noonday' indicates attacks so bold they occur in broad daylight—no need for stealth when victory is certain. Babylon's conquest created this situation exactly: Jerusalem's young men died defending walls; their mothers became widows overnight.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does 'widows more than sand of the seas' indicate about warfare's human cost?
2. How does 'noonday' attack emphasize the invader's overwhelming power?

Interlinear Text

עֲצָמוֹ	לִי	אַלְמָנוֹתָיו	יָמַח וְלִי	יָמַי יָם	הֵב אֵתִי
are increased	H0	Their widows	to me above the sand	of the seas	I have brought
H6105		H490	H2344	H3220	H935
עַל לָהֶם		אֵם	בָּחֹרִים	שֹׁדֵד	
H1992	H5921	upon them against the mother	of the young men	a spoiler	
		H517	H970	H7703	
בַּצָּהָר יָם	הִפָּלֵתִי	עַל יָהּ	פְּתָאֵם	עַל יָר	
at noonday	I have caused him to fall	H5921	upon it suddenly	upon the city	
H6672	H5307		H6597	H5892	
וּבְהִלּוֹתִי					
and terrors					
H928					