

Jeremiah 16:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The word of the LORD came also unto me, saying,

Analysis

God commands Jeremiah not to marry or have children in this place. This prohibition serves as a prophetic sign - the coming judgment makes family life futile. The Hebrew 'ben' (son) and 'bat' (daughter) emphasize the personal cost of this command. Jeremiah's celibacy witnesses to judgment's severity. His personal sacrifice authenticates his prophetic message about impending destruction.

Historical Context

Marriage and children were highly valued in ancient Israel, marking prosperity and God's blessing. Jeremiah's unmarried state was countercultural and required explanation, making it a powerful prophetic symbol.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God sometimes call His servants to personal sacrifice as prophetic witness?
2. What does Jeremiah's obedience in this costly command teach about prophetic ministry?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי י	דְּבַר	יְהוָה	אֵלַי	לֵאמֹר:
H1961	The word	of the LORD	H413	came also unto me saying
	H1697	H3068		H559

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