

# Jeremiah 16:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thus saith the LORD concerning the sons and concerning the daughters that are born in this place, and concerning their mothers that bare them, and concerning their fathers that begat them in this land;

## Analysis

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The reason for the marriage prohibition: 'For thus saith the LORD concerning the sons and concerning the daughters that are born in this place, and concerning their mothers that bare them, and concerning their fathers that begat them in this land.' This introduces explanation for why Jeremiah shouldn't have children. The specificity ('sons,' 'daughters,' 'mothers,' 'fathers') emphasizes that all family relationships will be affected by coming judgment. The phrase 'in this place' and 'in this land' emphasizes localized judgment on Judah. Bringing children into such circumstances would be cruel. Jeremiah's celibacy thus demonstrated mercy—not subjecting children to coming horrors.

## Historical Context

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Parents during the Babylonian siege witnessed unspeakable horrors including starvation of children and familial cannibalism (Lamentations 4:10). Jeremiah's celibacy spared him this agony.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How should awareness of coming judgment affect decisions about marriage and family?
2. What does God's concern for children's suffering teach about His compassion even in judgment?
3. How do we balance normal life pursuits with eschatological awareness?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי	כֹה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	עַל	הַבָּנִים	וְעַל
H3588	H3541	<b>For thus saith</b>	<b>the LORD</b>	H5921	<b>concerning the sons</b>	H5921
		H559	H3068		H1121	
	וְעַל	הַבָּנֹת	הַמּוֹלֵדִים	בַּמָּקוֹם	הַזֶּה	וְעַל
	<b>and concerning the daughters</b>	<b>that are born</b>	<b>in this place</b>	H2088	H5921	
		H1323	H3205	H4725		
	וְעַל	אִמֵּיהֶם	הַמּוֹלֵדִים	אֹתָם		
	<b>and concerning their mothers</b>	<b>that are born</b>	H853	H5921		
		H517	H3205			
	וְעַל	אֲבוֹתָם	הַמּוֹלֵדִים	אֹתָם	בְּאֶרֶץ	
	<b>them and concerning their fathers</b>	<b>that are born</b>	H853	<b>them in this land</b>		
		H1	H3205		H776	

הַזֹּאת:

H2063