

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

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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

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

כִּי כִּי אָמַר כִּי הַנָּא עַל יְהוָה עַל הַבָּנִים וְעַל

H3588 H3541 For thus saith the LORD H5921 concerning the sons H5921

H559

H3068

H1121

בְּנֵן וְתַתְּנֵן כִּי הַבָּנִים וְעַל בְּנֵי יְמִינָה וְעַל

and concerning the daughters that are born in this place H2088 H5921

H1323

H3205

H4725

אָמַת מִתְּנֵן כִּי הַבָּנִים וְעַל אֹתָם וְעַל

and concerning their mothers that are born H853 H5921

H517

H3205

H5921

אָבֹת מִתְּנֵן כִּי הַבָּנִים וְעַל אֹתָם וְעַל

them and concerning their fathers that are born H853 them in this land H776

H1

H3205

H853

H776

בְּנֵי אֶתְנָה:

H2063