

Jeremiah 16:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thus saith the LORD, Enter not into the house of mourning, neither go to lament nor bemoan them: for I have taken away my peace from this people, saith the LORD, even lovingkindness and mercies.

Analysis

Further prohibitions: 'For thus saith the LORD, Enter not into the house of mourning, neither go to lament nor bemoan them: for I have taken away my peace from this people, saith the LORD, even lovingkindness and mercies.' Jeremiah is forbidden to participate in mourning rituals. The reason: God has withdrawn 'peace,' 'lovingkindness,' and 'mercies.' These three terms (shalom, chesed, rachamim) represent covenant blessings now forfeited. When God removes these, normal social consolations become meaningless. Jeremiah's absence from mourning rituals symbolized God's absence—no divine comfort remained. This sign-act demonstrated the theological reality: judgment means covenant blessing withdrawal.

Historical Context

Mourning rituals were central to ancient Near Eastern social life. Jeremiah's absence from these gatherings would have been shocking and would have prompted questions about God's relationship to Judah.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does God's withdrawal of peace, lovingkindness, and mercy look like practically?
2. How do prophetic abstentions communicate truth about God's relationship to His people?
3. What role do covenant blessings play in making normal life meaningful and bearable?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	אֵל	תְּבוֹא	בְּ יֵת	
H3588	H3541			H408			
		For thus saith	the LORD		Enter	not into the house	
		H559	H3068		H935	H1004	
מִרְיָן	וְאֵל	תֵּלַךְ	לִסְפּוֹד	וְאֵל	תִּנָּד	לָהֶם	כִּי
of mourning	H408	H1980	to lament	H408	nor bemoan	H0	H3588
H4798			H5594		H5110		
אֲסָרָם	אֶת	שְׁלוֹמִי	מֵאֵת	הָעָם	הַזֶּה		
them for I have taken away	H853	my peace	H853	from this people	H2088		
H622		H7965		H5971			
נֹאמַר	יְהוָה	אֶת	הַחֶסֶד	וְאֶת	חַסְדֵּי:		
saith	the LORD	H853	even lovingkindness	H853	and mercies		
H5002	H3068		H2617		H7356		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 27:11 (Parallel theme): When the boughs thereof are withered, they shall be broken off: the women come, and set them on fire: for it is a people of no understanding: therefore he that made them will not have mercy on them, and he that formed them will shew them no favour.

Deuteronomy 31:17 (Parallel theme): Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?

Revelation 6:4 (Peace): And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

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