

Jeremiah 16:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Both the great and the small shall die in this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall men lament for them, nor cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them:

Analysis

The prophecy of comprehensive death: 'Both the great and the small shall die in this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall men lament for them, nor cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them.' Death crosses all classes ('great and small'). The mourning practices (cutting, baldness) were pagan-influenced customs forbidden by law (Leviticus 19:28; Deuteronomy 14:1) yet practiced. The observation that these won't occur suggests either such devastation that survivors cannot mourn properly, or that death becomes so common that individual mourning ceases. The universality of death and absence of proper burial illustrate complete societal collapse under judgment.

Historical Context

The Babylonian conquest resulted in massive casualties across all social classes. The death toll was so high that traditional mourning practices became impossible to observe for each individual.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does death crossing all social boundaries teach about judgment's impartiality?
2. How does societal collapse manifest when death becomes too common for proper mourning?
3. What warning does comprehensive judgment provide about the trajectory of persistent covenant breaking?

Interlinear Text

וּמְתוּ וְגַדְלֵי יָם וְקֹטְנֵי יָם בְּאֶרֶץ הַזֹּאת לֹא
shall die Both the great and the small in this land H2063 H3808
H4191 H1419 H6996 H776

וְלֹא יִקְבְּרוּ וְלֹא יִסְפְּדוּ וְלֹא יִלְהָמוּ וְלֹא יִלְהָמוּ
they shall not be buried neither shall men lament H1992 H3808
H6912 H3808 H5594

וְלֹא יִתְגַּדְּדוּ וְלֹא יִקְרְבוּ וְלֹא יִלְהָמוּ
for them nor cut themselves nor make themselves bald H1992
H1413 H3808 H7139

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 14:1 (Parallel theme): Ye are the children of the LORD your God: ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead.

Jeremiah 41:5 (Parallel theme): That there came certain from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, even fourscore men, having their beards shaven, and their clothes rent, and having cut themselves, with offerings and incense in their hand, to bring them to the house of the LORD.

Jeremiah 47:5 (Parallel theme): Baldness is come upon Gaza; Ashkelon is cut off with the remnant of their valley: how long wilt thou cut thyself?

Leviticus 19:28 (Parallel theme): Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.

Isaiah 22:12 (Parallel theme): And in that day did the Lord GOD of hosts call to weeping, and to mourning, and to baldness, and to girding with sackcloth:

Jeremiah 48:37 (Parallel theme): For every head shall be bald, and every beard clipped: upon all the hands shall be cuttings, and upon the loins sackcloth.

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