

Jeremiah 16:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Neither shall men tear themselves for them in mourning, to comfort them for the dead; neither shall men give them the cup of consolation to drink for their father or for their mother.

Analysis

More mourning customs suspended: 'Neither shall men tear themselves for them in mourning, to comfort them for the dead; neither shall men give them the cup of consolation to drink for their father or for their mother.' The 'cup of consolation' was likely ceremonial drink shared at funerals. These social comforts will cease. The phrase 'to comfort them for the dead' emphasizes mourning's consolatory function—now unavailable. Even parental death (father, mother) won't receive proper mourning. This depicts societal collapse: when traditional support structures fail, even grief cannot be properly processed. The absence of consolation illustrates judgment's comprehensive dismantling of normal life.

Historical Context

Ancient mourning rituals included communal meals and symbolic acts of solidarity with the bereaved. The prophecy envisions such devastation that these social supports collapse entirely.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does the collapse of social mourning rituals teach about judgment's effects on community?
2. How do traditional forms of consolation depend on stable social structures?
3. What happens to a society when even grief cannot be properly acknowledged and processed?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא	יִפְרֹס וְ	עַל	לֵהֶם	אֵל בָּל
H3808	Neither shall men tear	H0	H5921	themselves for them in mourning
	H6536			H60
וְלִנְחָמָם	עַל	מֵת	וְלֹא יִשְׁקוּ וְ	אוֹתָם
to comfort	H5921	them for the dead	H3808	to drink
H5162		H4191	H8248	H853
	כֹּה וְ	עַל	אָב יוֹ	וְעַל
	neither shall men give them the cup	H5921	for their father	H5921
	H3563	H8575	H1	
	אִמָּם:			
	or for their mother			
	H517			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 24:17 (Parallel theme): Forbear to cry, make no mourning for the dead, bind the tire of thine head upon thee, and put on thy shoes upon thy feet, and cover not thy lips, and eat not the bread of men.

Hosea 9:4 (Parallel theme): They shall not offer wine offerings to the LORD, neither shall they be pleasing unto him: their sacrifices shall be unto them as the bread of mourners; all that eat thereof shall be polluted: for their bread for their soul shall not come into the house of the LORD.

Deuteronomy 26:14 (Parallel theme): I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I taken away ought thereof for any unclean use, nor given ought thereof for the dead: but I have hearkened to the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that thou hast commanded me.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org