

Jeremiah 16:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt not also go into the house of feasting, to sit with them to eat and to drink.

Analysis

Prohibition from joyful gatherings: 'Thou shalt not also go into the house of feasting, to sit with them to eat and to drink.' Jeremiah must avoid both mourning and celebration. His absence from feasting symbolizes the cessation of joy under coming judgment. This sign-act demonstrates that normal life—both its sorrows and joys—will be disrupted. The prophet's lifestyle becomes a living sermon: neither mourn (because God has withdrawn comfort) nor feast (because joy will cease). This comprehensive abstention from social life illustrates that God's judgment affects every dimension of existence, not just religious observance.

Historical Context

Feasts and communal meals were central to ancient Israelite social and religious life. Jeremiah's absence from these would have marked him as separate and provoked questions about God's relationship to the people.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does abstention from both mourning and feasting communicate theological truth?
2. What does Jeremiah's social isolation teach about the cost of prophetic ministry?
3. How should awareness of coming judgment affect participation in normal social celebrations?

Interlinear Text

וּבֵית	מִשְׁתֶּה הַ	לֹא	תֵב וְאֵ	לֵשׁ בֵּת	אֶתְּ מֵ
into the house	of feasting	H3808	Thou shalt not also go	to sit	H854
H1004	H4960		H935	H3427	
לֶאֱכֹל לְ	וּלְשִׁתּוֹת:				
with them to eat	and to drink				
H398	H8354				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 15:17 (Parallel theme): I sat not in the assembly of the mockers, nor rejoiced; I sat alone because of thy hand: for thou hast filled me with indignation.

Psalms 26:4 (Parallel theme): I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers.

Ephesians 5:11 (Parallel theme): And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

1 Corinthians 5:11 (Parallel theme): But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

Matthew 24:38 (Parallel theme): For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

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