

Jeremiah 16:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will cause to cease out of this place in your eyes, and in your days, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride.

Analysis

The theological reason given: 'For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will cause to cease out of this place in your eyes, and in your days, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride.' The comprehensive silencing of joy ('mirth,' 'gladness,' wedding celebrations) will occur 'in your eyes' (they will witness it) and 'in your days' (during their lifetime). Wedding imagery particularly symbolizes hope and new beginnings—its cessation indicates hopelessness. The four voices (mirth, gladness, bridegroom, bride) represent the full spectrum of human joy. God will 'cause to cease' all of them, demonstrating His sovereign control over human experience. Judgment means joy's death.

Historical Context

The Babylonian exile resulted in Jerusalem's depopulation and Judah's desolation. For 70 years, the sounds of celebration were absent from the land, fulfilling this prophecy literally.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does the silencing of weddings symbolize about judgment's effect on hope and future?
2. How does God's causation of joy's cessation demonstrate His sovereignty over human experience?
3. What role does awareness of joy's fragility play in proper fear of the Lord?

Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 7:34 (Parallel theme): Then will I cause to cease from the cities of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride: for the land shall be desolate.

Ezekiel 26:13 (Parallel theme): And I will cause the noise of thy songs to cease; and the sound of thy harps shall be no more heard.

Hosea 2:11 (Parallel theme): I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts.

Jeremiah 25:10 (Parallel theme): Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle.

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