

Jeremiah 19:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses of the kings of Judah, shall be defiled as the place of Tophet, because of all the houses upon whose roofs they have burned incense unto all the host of heaven, and have poured out drink offerings unto other gods.

Analysis

The houses of Jerusalem and the kings' palaces are 'defiled' because they burned incense to 'all the host of heaven' on their rooftops. Astral worship (worship of sun, moon, stars) violated the first commandment and the explicit warnings of Deuteronomy 4:19. Rooftop worship was public and flagrant. The defilement made these houses 'as the place of Tophet' - fit only for judgment.

Historical Context

Rooftop worship was common in ancient Near Eastern culture. The flat roofs of houses provided convenient spaces for pagan rituals, making idolatry visible throughout the city.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does public sin increase accountability and corporate guilt?
2. What modern forms of 'host of heaven' worship compete with devotion to God alone?

Interlinear Text

יְהוּדָה הַמֶּלֶךְ יְהוֹשָׁפָט וְהַבָּתִּים
H1961 And the houses of Jerusalem H1004
H3389 And the houses of the kings H4428
H3063 of Judah

אֲשֶׁר הַבָּתִּים לְהַטְמִימָם הַתְּפֵת כַּמֶּקֶד
as the place of Tophet shall be defiled H3605
H4725 H8612 H2931 And the houses H1004
H834

צָבָא לְכָל גִּגְיֹתֵיהֶם עַל קֹטֶר וְהֵם
they have burned incense H5921 upon whose roofs H1406
H6999 H3605 unto all the host H6635

אֲחֵרִים: לֵאלֹהֵי יִם נִסְכּוֹ יְהִסֵּךְ וְהִשָּׁמַיִם
of heaven and have poured out drink offerings H5262
H8064 H5258 H430 H312
gods unto other

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 32:29 (Sacrifice): And the Chaldeans, that fight against this city, shall come and set fire on this city, and burn it with the houses, upon whose roofs they have offered incense unto Baal, and poured out drink offerings unto other gods, to provoke me to anger.

2 Kings 23:12 (Kingdom): And the altars that were on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, did the king beat down, and brake them down from thence, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron.

Jeremiah 7:18 (Sacrifice): The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.

Zephaniah 1:5 (Parallel theme): And them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship and that swear by the LORD, and that swear by Malcham;

Deuteronomy 4:19 (References God): And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

Psalms 79:1 (References God): O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps.

Psalms 74:7 (Parallel theme): They have cast fire into thy sanctuary, they have defiled by casting down the dwelling place of thy name to the ground.

Jeremiah 44:18 (Sacrifice): But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine.

2 Kings 23:10 (Parallel theme): And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech.