

Jeremiah 21:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O house of David, thus saith the LORD; Execute judgment in the morning, and deliver him that is spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor, lest my fury go out like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.

Analysis

The 'morning by morning' repetition emphasizes the daily, consistent requirement for justice - not sporadic reforms but sustained righteousness. The Hebrew 'mishpat' (judgment) encompasses both legal justice and covenant faithfulness. Kings were God's vice-regents, accountable to execute His justice. Their failure brought 'the fire of mine wrath' - God's holy opposition to injustice cannot be appeased by religious ritual alone (Isa 1:11-17).

Historical Context

Addressed to the Davidic dynasty during its final years. Despite God's covenant promise to David (2 Sam 7), individual kings could still fall under judgment for covenant violations.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's concern for justice challenge comfortable religion?
 2. In what ways are you called to 'execute judgment' in your sphere of influence?

Interlinear Text

בְּ יְהֻדָּה	אָמַר	יְהֹוָה	דָּינָה	לְבָקָר
O house	of David	H3541	thus saith	the LORD
H1004	H1732		H559	H3068
				Execute
				in the morning
				H1242
מִשְׁפָּט	וְהַצְּלָל	בְּצָל	מִיד	עֲוָשֵׂה
judgment	and deliver	him that is spoiled	out of the hand	of the oppressor
H4941	H5337	H1497	H3027	H6435
מִפְנֵי	מִכְבֵּה	הַיְאִים	וְבָאָרֶה	אֲשֶׁר
go out	like fire	lest my fury	and burn	that none can quench
H3318	H784	H2534	H1197	H3518
				H6440
רַע	מְעַלְלִיכֶם:			
of the evil	of your doings			
H7455	H4611			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:17 (Judgment): Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Jeremiah 4:4 (Evil): Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.

Isaiah 1:31 (Parallel theme): And the strong shall be as tow, and the maker of it as a spark, and they shall both burn together, and none shall quench them.

Jeremiah 5:28 (Judgment): They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge.

Jeremiah 17:4 (Parallel theme): And thou, even thyself, shalt discontinue from thine heritage that I gave thee; and I will cause thee to serve thine enemies in the land which thou knowest not: for ye have kindled a fire in mine anger, which shall burn for ever.

Jeremiah 36:7 (Evil): It may be they will present their supplication before the LORD, and will return every one from his evil way: for great is the anger and the fury that the LORD hath pronounced against this people.

Jeremiah 7:20 (References Lord): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, mine anger and my fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.

Nahum 1:6 (Parallel theme): Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

Zephaniah 3:5 (Judgment): The just LORD is in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame.

Isaiah 7:2 (References David): And it was told the house of David, saying, Syria is confederate with Ephraim. And his heart was moved, and the heart of his people, as the trees of the wood are moved with the wind.