

Jeremiah 22:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah; They shall not lament for him, saying, Ah my brother! or, Ah sister! they shall not lament for him, saying, Ah lord! or, Ah his glory!

Analysis

They shall not lament for him, saying, Ah my brother! or, Ah sister! The Hebrew **הָיָה** (hoy, 'Ah!' or 'Alas!') was the traditional funeral cry—but Jehoiakim would receive no mourning ritual, no familial grief (achi, 'my brother'; achot, 'sister'). Neither would there be royal lamentation: **Ah lord! or, Ah his glory!** (**הָיָה אֲדֹן וְהָיָה הָדוֹן**, hoy adon v'hoy hodo). The fourfold absence of mourning—domestic and regal, male and female—signifies complete rejection.

This divine judgment strips away the honor culture provided kings. Jehoiakim built monuments to himself but would be remembered with silence and contempt. Contrast this with David, whose death occasioned national mourning (1 Kings 2:10), or even Josiah, for whom Jeremiah himself composed laments (2 Chronicles 35:25). A dishonorable death exposes a dishonorable life—no amount of propaganda can manufacture genuine legacy.

Historical Context

Kings customarily received elaborate mourning rituals lasting days, with professional mourners, funeral songs, and public lamentations. The denial of proper burial and mourning was considered one of the worst curses in ancient

Near Eastern culture, signifying divine abandonment and erasing one's memory from the community.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What kind of legacy are you building—one that will be genuinely mourned or merely noted?
2. How does our culture's obsession with self-promotion mirror Jehoiakim's temple-building ego?
3. What would it mean for you to live in such a way that your absence creates genuine grief?

Interlinear Text

לְכָה	כִּי	אָמַר	יְהוָה	אֶל	יְהוָיָה	בְּ
H3651	H3541	Therefore thus saith		H413	concerning Jehoiakim	H1121
			H3068		H3079	
מִן	וְאַשְׁר	לְרַבְּנָה	לֹא	וְיִסְפֹּד	וְלֹא	בְּ
of Josiah	king	of Judah	H3808	they shall not lament	H0	or Ah
H2977	H4428	H3063		H5594		H1945
וְאַחֲרֵי	וְאַחֲרֵי	לֹא	וְיִסְפֹּד	וְלֹא	וְאַתְּ	
my brother	or Ah	sister	H3808	they shall not lament	H0	or Ah
H251	H1945	H269		H5594		H113
וְהַ	וְהַ					
or Ah	his glory					
H1945	H1935					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 16:6 (Parallel theme): Both the great and the small shall die in this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall men lament for them, nor cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them:

1 Kings 13:30 (Parallel theme): And he laid his carcase in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, Alas, my brother!

Jeremiah 16:4 (Parallel theme): They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; but they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth: and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcases shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.

Jeremiah 22:10 (Parallel theme): Weep ye not for the dead, neither bemoan him: but weep sore for him that goeth away: for he shall return no more, nor see his native country.

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