

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 הוי (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!** (הוי אדון־הודו, 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

כֹּה לֵכִי אַמַּר יְהוָה אֶל יְהוֹיָקִים בֶּן־
H3651 H3541 **Therefore thus saith** **the LORD** H413 **concerning Jehoiakim** **the son**
H559 H3068 H3079 H1121

יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה לֹא יִסְפְּדוּ לֹא וְיֹהִי
of Josiah **king** **of Judah** H3808 **they shall not lament** H0 **or Ah**
H2977 H4428 H3063 H5594 H1945

אָחִי וְיֹהִי אָחֻת לֹא יִסְפְּדוּ לֹא וְיֹהִי אָדוֹן
my brother **or Ah** **sister** H3808 **they shall not lament** H0 **or Ah** **lord**
H251 H1945 H269 H5594 H1945 H113

וְיֹהִי הִדָּה:
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.