

Jeremiah 30:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All thy lovers have forgotten thee; they seek thee not; for I have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of thine iniquity; because thy sins were increased.

Analysis

All thy lovers have forgotten thee (כָּל מְאַהֲבֶיךָ שָׁכַחוּךָ, 'kol me'ahavayikh shekhechuakh')—the 'lovers' (מְאַהֲבִים, 'me'ahavim') refers to political allies and false gods Israel pursued. The covenant metaphor intensifies: **I have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy** (מַכַּת אוֹיֵב הִכִּיתִיךָ, 'makat oyev hikitikh').

The shocking theology: God Himself acts as enemy (אוֹיֵב, 'oyev') to discipline covenant rebellion. **The multitude of thine iniquity** (רֹב עֲוֹנֶיךָ, 'rov avonekh') explains the severity—not arbitrary cruelty but covenant justice. This severity reveals the seriousness of sin and the depth of betrayal when God's people chase other lovers.

Historical Context

Egypt, Phoenicia, and other nations Israel had courted through treaties failed to defend her against Babylon. Jeremiah repeatedly warned against trusting these alliances instead of Yahweh (Jer 2:36-37).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What modern 'lovers' do Christians chase instead of wholehearted devotion to God?
2. How do you respond when God's discipline feels like an enemy's attack?
3. Why must God sometimes wound those He loves in order to heal deeper spiritual disease?

Interlinear Text

כָּל H3605	מְאַהֲבֵי יְיָ H157	שָׁכַח וְיָ H7911	לֹא H3808	אֹתָם H853	יִדְרֹשׁוּ H1875	כִּי H3588
	All thy lovers	have forgotten			thee they seek	
	מִכָּת H4347	אֹיֵב H341	הִפְתִּיתִי H5221	מוֹסֵר H4148		
	thee with the wound	of an enemy	thee not for I have wounded	with the chastisement		
אֶכְזָר י H394	עַל H5921	רַב H7230	עוֹנֶיךָ H5771	עֲצָמַי H6105		
of a cruel one		for the multitude	of thine iniquity	were increased		
	חַטֹּאתֶיךָ H2403					
	because thy sins					

Additional Cross-References

Job 30:21 (Parallel theme): Thou art become cruel to me: with thy strong hand thou opposest thyself against me.

Jeremiah 5:6 (Sin): Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, and a wolf of the evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backslidings are increased.

Lamentations 1:2 (Love): She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: among all her lovers she hath none to comfort her: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies.

Jeremiah 22:20 (Love): Go up to Lebanon, and cry; and lift up thy voice in Bashan, and cry from the passages: for all thy lovers are destroyed.

Job 19:11 (Parallel theme): He hath also kindled his wrath against me, and he counteth me unto him as one of his enemies.

Jeremiah 2:36 (Parallel theme): Why gaddest thou about so much to change thy way? thou also shalt be ashamed of Egypt, as thou wast ashamed of Assyria.

Jeremiah 22:22 (Love): The wind shall eat up all thy pastors, and thy lovers shall go into captivity: surely then shalt thou be ashamed and confounded for all thy wickedness.

Jeremiah 4:30 (Love): And when thou art spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life.

Jeremiah 30:15 (Sin): Why criest thou for thine affliction? thy sorrow is incurable for the multitude of thine iniquity: because thy sins were increased, I have done these things unto thee.