

Jeremiah 32:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For this city hath been to me as a provocation of mine anger and of my fury from the day that they built it even unto this day; that I should remove it from before my face,

Analysis

This city hath been to me as a provocation of mine anger and of my fury from the day that they built it—A shocking statement: Jerusalem, the City of David, God's chosen dwelling place, has been a source of divine wrath **from the day they built it**. The Hebrew ka'as (provocation) and chemah (חֶמָה, fury/wrath) are intensified together. This isn't denying Jerusalem's election (Psalm 132:13-14) but acknowledging persistent covenant unfaithfulness even in the holy city.

That I should remove it from before my face (לְהַסִּיכָה מִעַל פָּנַי)—Divine presence withdrawal is the ultimate curse. The phrase anticipates the temple's destruction and God's glory departing (Ezekiel 10:18-19). Yet God's stated intention 'to remove it' (using the modal verb) suggests this wasn't His ultimate desire but judicial necessity. The tension between God's elective love and His holy wrath over sin reaches crisis in this verse.

Historical Context

Jerusalem was conquered by David circa 1000 BC and made Israel's capital. Solomon built the temple there (959 BC). Despite this sacred history, the city's inhabitants repeatedly violated covenant, culminating in the abominations described in verses 34-35. In 587 BC, God's patience exhausted, Jerusalem fell.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does this verse challenge the assumption that God 'owes' protection to Christian nations or institutions?
2. What would it mean for God to 'remove' His presence from your life or church?
3. Can you identify areas where religious heritage has bred complacency rather than faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	עָלַי	אֲפִי	וְעַל	חֲמַתִּי		
H3588	H5921	H639	H5921	H2534		
hath been to me as a provocation of mine anger			and of my fury			
הָיְתָה	לִי	הָעִיר	הַזֹּאת	לְמִן	הַיּוֹם	אֲשֶׁר
H1961	H0	H5892	H2063	H4480	H3117	H834
For this city		from the day				
בָּנוּ	אֹתָהּ	וְעַד	הַיּוֹם	הַזֶּה	לְהַסִּיקָהּ	
H1129	H853	H5704	H3117	H2088	H5493	
that they built		from the day		that I should remove		
מִלִּפְנֵי	פָּנָי:					
H5921	H6440					
it from before my face						

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 23:27 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.

Jeremiah 27:10 (Parallel theme): For they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish.

Matthew 23:37 (Parallel theme): O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

2 Kings 21:16 (Parallel theme): Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.