

Jeremiah 36:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the LORD of Jehoiakim king of Judah; He shall have none to sit upon the throne of David: and his dead body shall be cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost.

Analysis

Therefore thus saith the LORD of Jehoiakim king of Judah; He shall have none to sit upon the throne of David: and his dead body shall be cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost. This is one of Scripture's most specific and severe prophetic judgments. The declaration **He shall have none to sit upon the throne of David** doesn't mean Jehoiakim had no successor (his son Jehoiachin reigned three months), but that no descendant would permanently establish a dynasty. Coniah (Jehoiachin) was cursed to be childless regarding the throne (22:30), and Zedekiah (Jehoiakim's uncle) was the last king before exile. Jehoiakim's line was cut off from David's throne.

The prediction about his **dead body** being **cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost** (venivlato tihyeh mushlekhet lachom bayom velakkerah ballayelah, promises shameful, unburied exposure—the ultimate disgrace in ancient Near Eastern culture. Burial was sacred; exposure of a corpse was covenant curse (Deuteronomy 28:26). The phrase "heat by day and frost by night" may indicate his body would lie exposed through temperature extremes, or it may be proverbial for complete disgrace. Jeremiah 22:19 declares he would have "the burial of an ass, drawn and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem."

Historical Context

The exact circumstances of Jehoiakim's death remain somewhat mysterious. 2 Kings 24:6 simply states "Jehoiakim slept with his fathers," using the standard formula for royal death, while 2 Chronicles 36:6 says Nebuchadnezzar bound him to carry him to Babylon but doesn't record the outcome. Josephus (Antiquities 10.6.3) reports that Nebuchadnezzar killed Jehoiakim and left his body unburied outside Jerusalem's walls, consistent with Jeremiah's prophecy. The historical ambiguity may reflect the chaos of the Babylonian invasion—records were disrupted, and shameful deaths were sometimes sanitized in official chronicles. What's certain is that Jehoiakim's dynasty ended quickly: his son Jehoiachin reigned only three months before exile (597 BC), and the Davidic line through Jehoiakim was permanently removed from the throne. The curse proved utterly accurate.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does the severity of this judgment teach about the seriousness of despising and destroying God's word?
2. How does the specific fulfillment of this prophecy (despite some historical ambiguity) demonstrate the reliability of God's declared judgments?
3. In what ways does the contrast between Jehoiakim's comfortable winterhouse (v. 22) and his prophesied exposure to heat and frost illustrate divine justice?

Interlinear Text

מִלְגָד יְהוֹיָקִים עַל יְהוּדָה לְכָה אָמַר רְבָה |

H3651 H3541 Therefore thus saith the LORD of Jehoiakim king

H559

מִלְגָד יְהוֹיָקִים עַל יְהוּדָה לְכָה אָמַר רְבָה |

H5921 H3068

מִלְגָד יְהוֹיָקִים עַל יְהוּדָה לְכָה אָמַר רְבָה |

H3079

H4428

כִּסְאֵן עַל יְשֵׁב לֹא יְהוּדָה לְוֹא יְהוּדָה הַ

of Judah H3808 H1961 H0 He shall have none to sit upon the throne

H3063

H3427

H3678

בְּיֹם לְהַרְחֵב מֶשֶׁלֶת כַּת תְּהִרֵי הַ וְנִגְּלַתּוּ זְהִד

of David and his dead body H1961 shall be cast out to the heat in the day

H1732

H5038

H7993

H2721

H3117

בְּלִילָה וְלַקְרָבָה

to the frost and in the night

H7140

H3915

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 22:30 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org