

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 mushlekheth lachom bayom velakkerah ballayelah, וְנִבְלָתוֹ תִּהְיֶה מְשֻׁלְכֶת לַחֹם בַּיּוֹם וְלִקְרַח בַּלַּיְלָה) 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

כֹּה לְכֹ	אָמַר	יְהוָה	עַל	יְהוֹיָקִים	מֶלֶךְ
H3651	H3541	Therefore thus saith	the LORD	H5921	of Jehoiakim
	H559		H3068	H3079	H4428
יְהוּדָה	לֹא	לֹא	יֹשֵׁב	עַל	כִּסֵּא
of Judah	H3808	H1961	H0	H5921	upon the throne
H3063			H3427		H3678
דָּוִד	וְנִבְלָתוֹ	תִּהְיֶה	מִשְׁלַךְ	לִחַרְבַּ	בַּיּוֹם
of David	and his dead body	H1961	shall be cast out	to the heat	in the day
H1732	H5038		H7993	H2721	H3117
בְּלֵילָה	וְלֵילָה				
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.
