

Jeremiah 44:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying,

Analysis

All the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods—The verb yada (יְדָה, to know) indicates conscious awareness and complicity. These husbands weren't passive; they knew and permitted, making them equally culpable (cf. v.19 where wives claim male consent). The gathering includes **a great multitude** (קָהָל גָּדוֹל, qahal gadol), suggesting systematic, public idolatry.

Pathros (פָּתְרוֹס)—Upper (southern) Egypt, indicating the Jewish refugees had spread throughout Egypt. This confrontation represents not a private rebuke but a national reckoning. The defiance is corporate, shameless, and absolute—a hardened community that has collectively rejected prophetic authority.

Historical Context

Pathros (Egyptian p3-t3-rsy, 'the southern land') was Upper Egypt, centered around Thebes. Jewish mercenary colonies existed there as early as the 7th century BC (later evidenced by the Elephantine papyri). The scene depicts an organized, established community publicly defending their syncretistic worship.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does 'knowing' about sin without intervening constitute participation in it?
2. What enables an entire community to collectively justify idolatry as a response to hardship?
3. Why is public, corporate defiance of God's word particularly egregious?

Interlinear Text

וְיָרְאָתָה כָל הָעֵדָה וְיִعַבְדֶּנָה
answered Jeremiah which knew
H853 H3605 H3045 H3588
H6030 H3414

וְיָרְאָתָה כָל הָעֵדָה וְיִעַבְדֶּנָה
had burned incense and all the women gods unto other
H6999 H802 H430 H312 H3605
H3605

וְיָרְאָתָה כָל הָעֵדָה וְיִשְׁאַבְדֶּנָה
and all the women that stood by multitude a great even all the people
H802 H5975 H6951 H1419 H5971
H3605

וְיָרְאָתָה כָל הָעֵדָה וְיִשְׁאַבְדֶּנָה
that dwelt in the land of Egypt in Pathros saying
H3427 H776 H4714 H6624 H559
H3605

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 11:21 (Parallel theme): Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.

Nehemiah 13:26 (References God): Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin.

Matthew 7:13 (Parallel theme): Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Genesis 19:4 (Parallel theme): But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: