

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 (כָּל־הָאֲנָשִׁים הַיֹּדְעִים)—The verb *yada* (יָדָע, 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 (פַּתְרוֹס)—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

וַיַּעַן ו	אֶת	יְרֵמְיָהוּ הוּ	כָּל	הָאֲנָשִׁים יִם	הַיָּדְעִים	כִּי
answered		Jeremiah			which knew	
H6030	H853	H3414	H3605	H376	H3045	H3588
מִקְטֹרֹת וְ	הַנָּשִׁים יִם	לֵאלֹהֵי יִם	אֲחֵרֵי יִם	וְכָל		
had burned incense	and all the women	gods	unto other			
H6999	H802	H430	H312			H3605
וְכָל	הַנָּשִׁים יִם	הַעֲמִיד וְ	קָה ל	גָּד וְ	וְכָל	הָעָם
and all the women	that stood by	multitude	a great			even all the people
H802	H5975	H6951	H1419	H3605		H5971
הַיֹּשֵׁב יִם	בְּאֶרֶץ	מִצְרַיִם	בְּפָתוֹר וְ	לֵאמֹר:		
that dwelt	in the land	of Egypt	in Pathros	saying		
H3427	H776	H4714	H6624	H559		

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:

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