

Jeremiah 44:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore now thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; Wherefore commit ye this great evil against your souls, to cut off from you man and woman, child and suckling, out of Judah, to leave you none to remain;

Analysis

Therefore now thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel—the messenger formula with triple divine titles (Yahweh, God of hosts, God of Israel) adds solemnity. 'ēlōhê ṣəbā'ôt (God of hosts/armies) emphasizes sovereignty over heavenly and earthly powers. The question **Wherefore commit ye this great evil against your souls** (lāmmâ 'attem 'ōśîm rā'â gədōlâ 'el-napšôtêkem) uses lāmmâ (why?) to express divine incredulity—after witnessing Jerusalem's fate, how can you persist?

Against your souls ('el-napšôtêkem) shows sin's self-destructive nature—nepesh (soul, life, self) indicates they're committing spiritual suicide. **To cut off from you man and woman, child and suckling** uses the Hiphil infinitive ləhaḳrît (to cut off, destroy) with comprehensive categories spanning gender (man/woman) and age (child/nursing infant). This echoes covenant curse language (Deuteronomy 28:18, 32:25), depicting total demographic annihilation. **To leave you none to remain** (ləbiltî haš'îr lākem šə'ērît)—the theological term šə'ērît (remnant) becomes tragically negative: no remnant will survive. Their idolatry in Egypt ensures they forfeit the remnant status God had offered.

Historical Context

This addresses the paradox of the remnant theology. God had promised to preserve a remnant (Jeremiah 23:3, 31:7), but the Egyptian refugees forfeited that promise through continued rebellion. The phrase 'man and woman, child and suckling' emphasizes total population extinction—no future generations would survive. Historical evidence suggests this community in Egypt was eventually absorbed or destroyed, validating Jeremiah's warning.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How is sin ultimately 'against your souls'—an act of spiritual self-harm?
2. What does the comprehensive judgment (all ages, both genders) reveal about the seriousness of corporate covenant rebellion?
3. How can people forfeit 'remnant' status through persistent disobedience despite God's promises?

Interlinear Text

כֹּה	וְעַתָּה	ה	אֲמַר	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי י	צָבָא	וְ	אֱלֹהֵי י
H6258	H3541		Therefore now thus saith	the LORD	the God	of hosts		the God
			H559	H3068	H430	H6635		H430
לְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	לָמָּה	אֶתְּ	עֲשֵׂי	יָמִים	רָעָה	גְּדוֹלָה	אֵל
	of Israel	H4100	H859	Wherefore commit	evil	ye this great	H413	
	H3478			H6213	H7451	H1419		
עוֹלָל	לְ	וְאִשָּׁה	ה	אִישׁ	לָךְ	מִן	לְהַכֹּת	יְתִ
	against your souls	to cut off	H0	from you man	and woman	child		
	H5315	H3772		H376	H802	H5768		
וְיֹונֵק	קִ	מֵת	וְ	יְהוּדָה	לְבָלֵת	י	הוֹתִיר	לָךְ
and suckling	out	of Judah	H1115	to leave	H0			
H3243	H8432	H3063		H3498				
שְׂאֵרִית:								
you none to remain								
H7611								

Additional Cross-References

Habakkuk 2:10 (Parallel theme): Thou hast consulted shame to thy house by cutting off many people, and hast sinned against thy soul.

Jeremiah 51:22 (Parallel theme): With thee also will I break in pieces man and woman; and with thee will I break in pieces old and young; and with thee will I break in pieces the young man and the maid;

Numbers 16:38 (References Lord): The censers of these sinners against their own souls, let them make them broad plates for a covering of the altar: for they offered them before the LORD, therefore they are hallowed: and they shall be a sign unto the children of Israel.

Proverbs 15:32 (Parallel theme): He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

Proverbs 5:22 (Evil): His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

Jeremiah 7:19 (References Lord): Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?

Jeremiah 44:14 (Parallel theme): So that none of the remnant of Judah, which are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall escape or remain, that they should return into the land of Judah, to the which they have a desire to return to dwell there: for none shall return but such as shall escape.

Jeremiah 9:21 (Parallel theme): For death is come up into our windows, and is entered into our palaces, to cut off the children from without, and the young men from the streets.

Deuteronomy 32:25 (Parallel theme): The sword without, and terror within, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling also with the man of gray hairs.

Ezekiel 33:11 (Evil): Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?