

Jeremiah 48:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And joy and gladness is taken from the plentiful field, and from the land of Moab; and I have caused wine to fail from the winepresses: none shall tread with shouting; their shouting shall be no shouting.

Analysis

And joy and gladness is taken from the plentiful field, and from the land of Moab—(וְתָאַסֵּף שְׂמִחָה שְׂמִחָה גִּיל מִכְרָמֵל וּמִאַרְצֵי מוֹאָב) The Hebrew simchah (שְׂמִחָה) and gil (גִּיל) both mean joy, gladness, rejoicing. These are harvest terms—the celebration accompanying grape gathering and wine production. This joy is 'taken' (asaph, אָסַף—gathered away, removed, withdrawn). God removes blessing, and with it, the joy that blessing produces.

I have caused wine to fail from the winepresses: none shall tread with shouting—(וְיָסַר מִיקְבִּים הַשְׁבָתִי לְאַיְלָה פִּידֵּד). The word shavat (שְׁבָת) means to cease, stop, rest—God actively stops wine production. Treading grapes was accompanied by joyful shouting (hedad, הַדָּד). **Their shouting shall be no shouting**—any cries will be of anguish, not celebration. The reversal is complete: sounds of joy become sounds of grief. This echoes the covenant curses of Deuteronomy 28:30-39—planting but not harvesting, because of covenant unfaithfulness.

Historical Context

Grape harvest in the ancient Near East was the year's most joyful celebration, similar to modern harvest festivals. Treading grapes in winepresses was communal, accompanied by rhythmic chanting and singing. Isaiah 16:9-10

contains nearly identical language about Moab's harvest joy being ended. The fulfillment came when Babylon conquered Moab (circa 582 BC), devastating agriculture and ending prosperity. This judgment parallels what Judah experienced —both nations lost their harvests and joy under divine discipline.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the removal of harvest joy illustrate that all human gladness depends on God's blessing?
2. What does the silencing of joyful shouting teach about the comprehensive nature of divine judgment?
3. In what ways should awareness that God gives and removes blessing shape our enjoyment of prosperity and productivity?

Interlinear Text

וְמִן־רַצְנָה מִפְרַתְּ לְ שָׂמֵחַ הַ יְגִיאָסָפְּ הַ
is taken And joy and gladness from the plentiful field and from the land
H622 H8057 H1524 H3759 H776

לֹא הַשְׁבֵּת תִּי מִקְבֵּת יָם מִזְאָב בְּ
of Moab and I have caused wine from the winepresses to fail
H4124 H3196 H3342 H7673 H3808

לֹא יָדַר גַּם־יִתְּהַלֵּךְ יִתְּהַלֵּךְ יִתְּהַלֵּךְ
none shall tread shall be no shouting shall be no shouting
H1869 H1959 H1959 H3808

יִתְּהַלֵּךְ

shall be no shouting
H1959

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 5:10 (Parallel theme): Yea, ten acres of vineyard shall yield one bath, and the seed of an homer shall yield an ephah.

Haggai 2:16 (Parallel theme): Since those days were, when one came to an heap of twenty measures, there were but ten: when one came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty vessels out of the press, there were but twenty.