

Jeremiah 7:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD.

Analysis

God delivers devastating indictment: 'Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes?' (hamě'āraṭ pērîṣîm hâyâ habbayiṭ hazzeh 'āšer-niqrā-šēmî 'ālāyw lě'ênêkem). The phrase 'den of robbers' (mē'āraṭ pērîṣîm) describes a hideout where criminals retreat after committing crimes, feeling safe from consequences. Judah treated the temple as refuge after covenant violations, assuming ritual participation provided immunity from judgment. The phrase 'in your eyes' emphasizes their perspective, but God adds: 'Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD' (gam 'ānōkî rā'îṭî nē'um-YHWH). Divine omniscience penetrates their delusion—God sees the hypocrisy they refuse to acknowledge. Jesus quoted this verse when cleansing the temple (Matthew 21:13, Mark 11:17, Luke 19:46), showing the pattern repeated in His day. The principle remains: religious institutions and rituals don't provide immunity from divine judgment; only genuine repentance and covenant faithfulness bring security.

Historical Context

The temple had become a center of commercial exploitation (Matthew 21:12-13, John 2:13-17) and religious hypocrisy. People participated in sacrifices and festivals while maintaining lives of injustice and idolatry. The temple priests themselves were corrupt, seeking personal gain rather than serving God (Jeremiah 6:13, 8:10, 23:11). The 'den of robbers' metaphor would resonate with Jesus' audience a few centuries later when temple corruption reached new heights. In

both cases, religious leaders and people treated sacred space as cover for unholy behavior. Archaeological evidence from Jeremiah's era shows continued idolatry despite temple worship. God's declaration 'I have seen it' warns that divine omniscience exposes all hypocrisy. No amount of religious activity hides sin from God (Hebrews 4:13). Judgment came in 586 BC when Babylon burned the temple, and again in AD 70 when Romans destroyed Herod's temple, vindicating the prophets.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How might church attendance, religious activity, or Christian identity function as a 'den of robbers'—a place to hide from conviction while continuing in sin?
2. What does it mean that God 'has seen' your heart's true condition behind religious appearance, and how should this affect your approach to worship?

Interlinear Text

הַמְעֵבֶר תִּ	פָּרָצִים	הֵיאָה	הַבַּיִת	הַזֶּה	אֲשֶׁר	נִקְרָא
become a den	of robbers	H1961	Is this house	H2088	H834	which is called
H4631	H6530		H1004			H7121
שְׁמִי	עַל יוֹ	בְּעֵינֶיךָ	גַּם	אֲנִי	הֵיאָה	כֹּאֲ יֵתִי
by my name	H5921	in your eyes	H1571	H595	H2009	Behold even I have seen
H8034		H5869				H7200
נֹאֵם	יְהוָה:					
it saith	the LORD					
H5002	H3068					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 56:7 (Parallel theme): Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

Mark 11:17 (Parallel theme): And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Matthew 21:13 (Parallel theme): And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

2 Chronicles 6:33 (Parallel theme): Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for; that all people of the earth may know thy name, and fear thee, as doth thy people Israel, and may know that this house which I have built is called by thy name.

Jeremiah 23:24 (References Lord): Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

John 2:16 (Parallel theme): And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

Hebrews 4:13 (Parallel theme): Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Jeremiah 2:34 (Parallel theme): Also in thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents: I have not found it by secret search, but upon all these.

Jeremiah 29:23 (References Lord): Because they have committed villany in Israel, and have committed adultery with their neighbours' wives, and have spoken lying words in my name, which I have not commanded them; even I know, and am a witness, saith the LORD.