

Jeremiah 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel.

Analysis

God directs them to historical precedent: 'But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel' (קַי-לֶקְעַ-נָּה' 'אֵל-מֶقְוָמִי 'אֵשֶׁר בֵּשְׁלֹה 'אֵשֶׁר שִׁקְקַנְתִּי שְׁמִי שָׁם בָּרִשׁוֹנָה עַרְעַ 'אֵת 'אֵשֶׁר-'אָשִׁיטִי לֹה מִפְּנֵנֶה רָאָת 'אַמְמִי יִשְׁרָאֵל). Shiloh housed the tabernacle and ark from Joshua's time through Eli's priesthood (Joshua 18:1, Judges 21:19, 1 Samuel 1-4). Despite being God's dwelling place where He 'set [His] name,' Shiloh was destroyed (likely by Philistines around 1050 BC after capturing the ark, 1 Samuel 4). Archaeological excavations at Khirbet Seilun confirm massive destruction in the 11th century BC. The lesson: God's presence doesn't guarantee protection for unfaithful people. Sacred sites aren't inviolable; persistent wickedness provokes divine judgment regardless of religious infrastructure. This historical precedent demolishes Jerusalem's false confidence that temple presence ensures security.

Historical Context

Shiloh served as Israel's religious center for over 300 years during the judges period. Yet when Eli's corrupt sons abused their priestly office and Israel treated the ark superstitiously (1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-25; 4:3-11), God allowed defeat and Shiloh's destruction. Psalm 78:60 confirms: 'he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men.' By Jeremiah's time, Shiloh lay in ruins, a silent witness to divine judgment on religious corruption. The parallel to Jerusalem

was clear: just as Shiloh's sacred status didn't prevent destruction, Jerusalem's temple won't save a rebellious people. Archaeological evidence shows Shiloh remained largely uninhabited after destruction, a visible warning Jeremiah's audience could verify. The prophecy proved accurate—Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and burned the temple within two decades. The principle applies universally: institutions and buildings don't save; only faithful covenant relationship with God provides security.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What historical examples of divine judgment on religious institutions and unfaithful communities should warn contemporary Christianity?
2. How does Shiloh's example challenge any presumption that church history, buildings, or traditions guarantee God's blessing regardless of faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

בְּשִׁילֹן	אֲשֶׁר	רָא	אֶל	בְּ	אֵלֶיךָ	מִקְרָמִי	עַכְבָּרְתָּ	וְ
H3787	H1980	H4994	H413			ye now unto my place	H4725	H834
								which was in Shiloh
								H7887
אֲשֶׁר	אָתָה	וְרָא	בְּרִאשׁוֹן	הַשְׁמָם	שָׁם	שָׁם	וְ	אֲשֶׁר
H834				H8033		H7223		H834
where I set	my name		at the first			H7200		H853
H7931	H8034							H834
עַפְתִּי	עַפְתִּי	עַפְתִּי	עַפְתִּי	עַפְתִּי	עַפְתִּי	עַפְתִּי	עַפְתִּי	עַפְתִּי
what I did	H0	to it for	the wickedness	of my people	Israel			
H6213		H6440	H7451	H5971	H3478			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 26:6 (Parallel theme): Then will I make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth.

Joshua 18:1 (References Israel): And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. And the land was subdued before them.

1 Samuel 4:22 (References Israel): And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken.

Judges 18:31 (Parallel theme): And they set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

Deuteronomy 12:11 (Parallel theme): Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:

1 Samuel 1:3 (Parallel theme): And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.
