

Jeremiah 7:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not;

Analysis

God applies the lesson: 'And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not' (wě'attâ ya'an 'ăšôtēkem 'et-kol-hamma'ăšîm hă'ëlleh nē'um-YHWH wā'ădabbēr 'ălêkem haškēm wēdabbēr wělo' šēma'tem wā'eqrā 'etkem wělo' 'ănîtem). The phrase 'rising up early' (haškēm) idiomatically means persistent, diligent effort—God repeatedly sent prophetic warnings. Despite patient, persistent appeals, 'ye heard not...ye answered not' (wělo' šēma'tem...wělo' 'ănîtem). This establishes guilt: judgment comes after rejected grace, ignored warnings, spurned mercy. God's patience has limits; persistent refusal to heed prophetic calls results in inevitable judgment. This pattern appears throughout Scripture—longsuffering gives opportunity for repentance (Romans 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9), but presuming upon patience brings 'sudden destruction' (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

Historical Context

Jeremiah's ministry spanned over forty years, during which he consistently called for repentance (Jeremiah 25:3: 'From the thirteenth year of Josiah...even unto this day, that is the three and twentieth year, the word of the LORD hath come unto me, and I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye have not hearkened'). Other prophets—Habakkuk, Zephaniah, perhaps Nahum and Obadiah—ministered contemporaneously. Before them, Isaiah, Micah, and others had

warned. God provided repeated opportunities for repentance, but each generation refused. This established pattern of rejection justified coming judgment—God wasn't arbitrary or cruel but patient beyond measure. When judgment finally came through Babylon's conquest (586 BC), no one could claim surprise or injustice. Jesus later wept over Jerusalem for the same reason (Matthew 23:37-39, Luke 19:41-44): persistent rejection of prophetic calls leads to inevitable judgment. The principle warns that grace spurned becomes judgment certain.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What persistent biblical calls to repentance in specific areas have you been ignoring or rationalizing away?
2. How should understanding God's patience and repeated warnings motivate urgent response rather than presumptuous delay?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה הִנֵּה	עַשׂוֹתְכֶם	אֶת כָּל	הַמַּעֲשִׂים	
H6258	H3282			
And now because ye have done		H853	H3605	all these works
		H4639		
הָאֵל לֵאמֹר	יְהוָה הִנֵּה	וְאֵלֶיךָ	וְהִשָּׁבְתָּ	
H428				
saith	the LORD	and I spake	unto you rising up early	
H5002	H3068	H1696	H7925	
וְאֵל לֵאמֹר	וְלֹא אֶשְׁמָעְתָּ	וְאֵל לֵאמֹר	וְלֹא אֶתְּכָה	
and I spake	but ye heard	not and I called	H853	H3808
H1696	H8085	H7121		
עָנִיתָם:				
you but ye answered				
H6030				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 65:12 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not.

Proverbs 1:24 (Parallel theme): Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

Jeremiah 7:25 (Sin): Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them:

Isaiah 50:2 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.

Isaiah 66:4 (Parallel theme): I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not.

Jeremiah 11:7 (Sin): For I earnestly protested unto your fathers in the day that I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, even unto this day, rising early and protesting, saying, Obey my voice.

Jeremiah 25:3 (Kingdom): From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, even unto this day, that is the three and twentieth year, the word of the LORD hath come unto me, and I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye have not hearkened.

Jeremiah 35:17 (References Lord): Therefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring upon Judah and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the evil that I have pronounced against them: because I have spoken unto them, but they have not heard; and I have called unto them, but they have not answered.

Jeremiah 44:4 (Sin): Howbeit I sent unto you all my servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate.

Jeremiah 35:15 (Sin): I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me.