

Jeremiah 7:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

Analysis

God forbids Jeremiah to intercede: 'Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.' This stunning command indicates that judgment is now fixed and irreversible. The comprehensive prohibition ('pray not,' 'lift up cry,' 'make intercession') emphasizes finality. God's statement 'I will not hear' shows that the time for repentance has passed. This illustrates that divine patience, though extensive, has limits. When persistent rejection continues despite repeated warnings, God eventually confirms people in their chosen rebellion. Reformed theology speaks of judicial hardening—God's active giving over of persistent rebels to their sin's consequences.

Historical Context

This command appears multiple times in Jeremiah (7:16; 11:14; 14:11), indicating that during his later ministry, judgment was sealed. Even Moses and Samuel couldn't intercede successfully at this point (Jeremiah 15:1).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do we understand the limits of intercessory prayer in light of God's decreed judgments?
2. What does it mean for a point of no return to be reached in God's dealing with persistent sin?
3. How should awareness of judgment's potential finality affect our evangelistic urgency?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֹ֣ בְּזִבְחָנָה
H859 H408 Therefore pray for them not thou for this people H2088 H408

בְּעֵד מִנְחָתָפֶל לְאֵל וְאֵפֶת הָ
H6419 H1157 H5971

בְּעֵד מִנְחָתָפֶל הָרְבָה בְּעֵד מִנְחָתָפֶל
neither lift up for them cry nor prayer H408 neither make intercession H6293 H0

בְּעֵד מִנְחָתָפֶל אֵין פִּי כִּי
H3588 H369 to me for I will not hear H853 H8085

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 11:14 (Prayer): Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble.

Jeremiah 15:1 (Parallel theme): Then said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth.

Exodus 32:10 (Parallel theme): Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

Isaiah 1:15 (Prayer): And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Jeremiah 18:20 (Parallel theme): Shall evil be recompensed for good? for they have digged a pit for my soul. Remember that I stood before thee to speak good for them, and to turn away thy wrath from them.

1 John 5:16 (Prayer): If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

Deuteronomy 9:14 (Parallel theme): Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven: and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they.

Micah 3:4 (Parallel theme): Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

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