

Jeremiah 7:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

Analysis

God asks Jeremiah, 'Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?' This rhetorical question demands attention to observable reality. The public, open nature of their sin ('in the streets') shows shamelessness. God's question to the prophet implies that the evidence is so obvious that no one can claim ignorance. This public idolatry demonstrates how far Judah has fallen—they no longer even attempt to hide their covenant breaking. The question format engages Jeremiah as witness, establishing that judgment will be based on clear, visible evidence.

Historical Context

Archaeological findings confirm widespread idolatrous practices in late pre-exilic Judah, including household shrines and figurines of pagan deities. Public squares featured altars to foreign gods.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does public, shameless sin reveal about a culture's spiritual state?
2. How should believers respond when wickedness becomes normalized and open rather than hidden?
3. What role does observable evidence play in establishing accountability before God?

Interlinear Text

הָאֵינֶךָ	רָאָה	מָה	מָה	עֲשֵׂים	בְּעָרֵי	יְהוּדָה
H369	Seest	H4100	H1992	thou not what they do	in the cities	of Judah
	H7200			H6213	H5892	H3063

וּבְחֻצֹת	יְרוּשָׁלַם:
and in the streets	of Jerusalem
H2351	H3389

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 14:23 (Parallel theme): And they shall comfort you, when ye see their ways and their doings: and ye shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, saith the Lord GOD.

Jeremiah 6:27 (Parallel theme): I have set thee for a tower and a fortress among my people, that thou mayest know and try their way.