

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

וְהִנֵּךְ הַבָּעֵר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים
H369 Seest H4100 H1992 thou not what they do in the cities of Judah
H7200 H6213 H5892 H3063

וְבָחַץ וְתַּרְשַׁלְמָה:
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.