

Jeremiah 7:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.

Analysis

God identifies Himself with full covenant title: 'Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel' (kōh-āmar YHWH šēbā'ôt 'élohē yiśrā'ēl). 'LORD of hosts' (YHWH šēbā'ôt) emphasizes sovereignty over heavenly armies, while 'God of Israel' stresses covenant relationship. The message begins positively: 'Amend your ways and your doings' (hēt̄ibû dērākēkem ûma'älēlēkem, הַתִּבּוּ דְרָקֶקֶם וּמְאַלְלֶקֶם). The verb yāṭab (make good, improve) requires comprehensive moral transformation, not minor adjustments. 'Ways' (dērākîm) refers to life direction and habits; 'doings' (ma'älālîm) means specific actions. The promise: 'and I will cause you to dwell in this place' (wē'aśēkānâ 'et̄kem bammāqōm hazzeh). Continued possession of the land depends on covenant obedience—a conditional promise, not unconditional guarantee. This establishes the sermon's thesis: true security comes through righteousness, not religious ritual or institutional presence.

Historical Context

The conditional nature of land possession was fundamental to Mosaic covenant (Deuteronomy 28-30). Obedience brought blessing and secure possession; disobedience brought curses and exile. However, popular theology in Jeremiah's day had twisted this into unconditional confidence: the temple guarantees divine presence, and divine presence guarantees protection regardless of behavior. This false theology needed confrontation. Archaeological evidence and biblical texts show that despite periodic reforms, Judah practiced widespread injustice and

idolatry. Jeremiah's call to 'amend your ways' echoes earlier prophets (Isaiah 1:16-17, Amos 5:14-15) demanding comprehensive moral reform. The warning proved prophetic—failure to amend resulted in exile, just as Moses and Jeremiah warned. Only genuine repentance could have prevented judgment.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 – The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What specific 'ways and doings' is God calling you to amend in order to walk faithfully in covenant relationship with Him?
2. How do you distinguish between genuine transformation and superficial moral adjustments that leave heart issues unaddressed?

Interlinear Text

בָּה	אָמֵן	הִנֵּה	יְהִי	אָמֵן	יְהִי	אָמֵן	בָּה
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD		of hosts	the God	of Israel	Amend
H559		H3068		H6635	H430	H3478	H3190
your ways	and your doings		and I will cause you to dwell			H853	in this place

הזה:

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 26:13 (References God): Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you.

Jeremiah 18:11 (References Lord): Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.

Proverbs 28:13 (Parallel theme): He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org