

Jeremiah 7:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour;

Analysis

God specifies what genuine amendment requires: 'For if ye throughly amend your ways and your doings' (kî 'im-hêtêb têtîbû 'et-dérékêkem wě'et-ma'alélêkem). The doubled verb (hêtêb têtîbû) emphasizes thorough, comprehensive reformation, not superficial change. The first requirement: 'if ye throughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour' ('im-'âsô ta'âsû mišpât bêñ 'iš ûbêñ rē'êhû). The term mišpât (judgment, justice) requires fair legal decisions and righteous treatment in all relationships. This addresses systemic injustice that pervaded Judah's society—court corruption, exploitation, oppression. True covenant faithfulness produces social justice and interpersonal righteousness. This echoes Micah 6:8: 'what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?' Religion divorced from justice is hypocrisy that God rejects.

Historical Context

Judah's society in Jeremiah's day was characterized by severe injustice. Jeremiah 5:26-28 describes wicked men who 'set a trap, they catch men' and fail to 'judge the cause of the fatherless.' Jeremiah 22:13-17 condemns King Jehoiakim for building his palace with forced labor and unpaid wages while refusing to 'execute judgment and justice.' The wealthy exploited the poor through corrupt courts, fraudulent business practices, and land grabbing (Isaiah 5:8, Micah 2:2). Prophets consistently taught that God values justice over ritual sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22,

Hosea 6:6, Amos 5:21-24). Jesus later emphasized the same principle, condemning religious leaders who 'omit the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith' (Matthew 23:23). Genuine faith always produces justice; its absence exposes religious hypocrisy.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does your faith practically express itself in pursuing justice in relationships, business dealings, and societal structures?
2. What would 'thoroughly executing judgment' between people require in contexts where you have influence or authority?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת דְּרָכֶיךָ מִתְּבִּין בְּאֶת
H3588 H518 For if ye throughly For if ye throughly H853 your ways H853
H3190 H3190 H1870

אַתָּה וְעַל־לְבִלְיכָם אֵת מְעַשְׁךָ מְעַשְׁךָ מְשֻׁפֵּט בֵּין
and your doings H518 execute H6213 execute H4941 judgment H996 between a man H376
H4611 H7453

רְעֵהוֹ וְבֵבֵר
H996 and his neighbour H7453

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:19 (Parallel theme): If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

Jeremiah 22:3 (Judgment): Thus saith the LORD; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place.

Jeremiah 7:3 (Parallel theme): 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.

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