

# Jeremiah 8:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At that time, saith the LORD, they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of his princes, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, out of their graves:

## Analysis

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This verse opens a stark oracle of judgment describing the desecration of Judah's dead. 'At that time' (baet hahi, בָּעֵת הַהִיא) connects to the preceding judgment oracle, indicating the Babylonian conquest. The bones of kings, princes, priests, prophets, and inhabitants of Jerusalem would be exhumed from their graves. In ancient Near Eastern culture, proper burial and undisturbed rest for the dead held supreme importance. Disturbing graves was considered the ultimate dishonor, severing connection with ancestors and exposing the deceased to shame. This judgment reverses the honor these leaders sought during life, stripping away their dignity in death as they stripped God of the honor due Him through idolatry.

## Historical Context

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This prophecy found literal fulfillment when Babylonian armies conquered Jerusalem in 586 BC. Ancient conquerors regularly desecrated graves of defeated enemies to demonstrate complete domination and to search for buried treasures. Archaeological evidence from this period confirms widespread tomb disturbance throughout Judah. The specific mention of kings, princes, priests, and prophets indicts every level of leadership that led the nation into idolatry.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does the judgment of posthumous dishonor reflect the principle that we reap what we sow, even beyond death?
2. What does this passage teach about the eternal consequences of our spiritual choices and allegiances?

## Interlinear Text

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עַצְמָה וְתַ	אֵת	בְּעֵת	יָא	סָהַת	הָיָה	נָאָם	יְהֹוָה	הַ	יְאֹוָהָז	וְיִצְחָק	וְתַ
At that time		H1931	saith	the LORD		they shall bring out		H853	and the bones		
	H6256		H5002		H3068		H3318			H6106	
מֶלֶךְיִ	הַ	יְהוּדָה	וְתַ	עַצְמָה	וְתַ	שְׁבִי	וְתַ	עַצְמָה	וְתַ		
of the kings	of Judah	H853	and the bones	of his princes	H853	and the bones	H853	and the bones			
H4428	H3063		H6106	H8269		H6106					
עַצְמָה	וְתַ	אֵת	בְּכֶבֶד	יָם	עַצְמָה	וְתַ	אֵת	בְּכֶבֶד	יָם	עַצְמָה	וְתַ
of the priests	H853	and the bones	of the prophets	H5030		H853	and the bones	H6106			
H3548											
וְשָׁבֵי	מִ	יְרוּשָׁלָם	מִקְבָּרִים:								
of the inhabitants	of Jerusalem		out of their graves								
H3427	H3389		H6913								

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 6:5** (Parallel theme): And I will lay the dead carcases of the children of Israel before their idols; and I will scatter your bones round about your altars.

