

Jeremiah 8:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold the voice of the cry of the daughter of my people because of them that dwell in a far country: Is not the LORD in Zion? is not her king in her? Why have they provoked me to anger with their graven images, and with strange vanities?

Analysis

This verse voices the people's desperate cry: 'Behold the voice of the cry of the daughter of my people because of them that dwell in a far country.' Jeremiah hears his people crying to God from distant lands of exile. 'Daughter of my people' (bat-ammi, בַּת־אֲמִי) is a tender phrase expressing Jeremiah's love for his nation despite their sin. 'Is not the LORD in Zion? is not her king in her?' The questions reveal theological crisis—how can God's city fall if He dwells there? How can David's throne perish if God promised perpetuity? These questions echo the confident but misguided theology of those who trusted in Jerusalem's inviolability rather than covenant faithfulness.

Historical Context

Popular theology in Judah, influenced by Jerusalem's miraculous deliverance from Assyria in 701 BC (2 Kings 18-19), assumed God would never allow His city or temple to be destroyed. False prophets reinforced this 'Zion theology' while ignoring the conditional nature of covenant promises. The exiles' questions reveal their shattered assumptions—if God was in Zion, how did Babylon destroy it? The answer would come through theological reflection during exile, producing the prophetic literature that explained judgment in terms of covenant unfaithfulness.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How did misunderstanding God's promises lead to false confidence that ignored covenant conditions?
2. What theological assumptions do we hold that might be shattered by difficult providences?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּה H2009	ק וּל Behold the voice H6963	שֹׁעַת of the cry H7775	בֵּת of the daughter H1323	עַמִּי of my people H5971	מֵאֶרֶץ country H776
מִרְחֹק יָם because of them that dwell in a far H4801	לֹא הִיא הָיְתָה Is not the LORD H3068	אֵין H369	בְּצִיּוֹן in Zion H6726	אֵם H518	
מֶלֶךְ הָאֵל is not her king H4428	אֵין H369	בָּהּ H0	מִדָּוָע H4069	הִיא הִיא in her	וְהִיא הִיא Why have they provoked me to anger H3707
בְּפִסְלֵיהֶם with their graven images H6456	בְּהַבְלֵיהֶם vanities H1892	וְעִם and with strange H5236			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 39:3 (Kingdom): Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country unto me, even from Babylon.

Isaiah 13:5 (References Lord): They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land.

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