

Jeremiah 9:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Consider ye, and call for the mourning women, that they may come; and send for cunning women, that they may come:

Analysis

This verse calls for mourners: 'Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Consider ye, and call for the mourning women.' The Hebrew *meqonenoth* (מְקֹנְנוֹת, mourning women) were professional wailers who led public lamentation at funerals. 'That they may come; and send for cunning women, that they may come.' The Hebrew *chakamoth* (חַכְמוֹת, skilled/wise women) indicates expertise in funeral rites and laments. The call for professional mourners suggests the coming devastation will exceed family capacity for grief—organized, expert mourning will be required for the magnitude of death coming. The double command ('call,' 'send') emphasizes urgency.

Historical Context

Professional mourning women were common throughout the ancient Near East. Egyptian and Mesopotamian art depicts them at funerals with characteristic gestures and dress. In Israel, these women led communal grief with traditional laments (2 Chronicles 35:25). The passage suggests the scale of death will require their full mobilization—every skilled mourner in the nation called to service.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does the call for professional mourners suggest about the scale of coming judgment?
2. How does organized, communal grief differ from individual sorrow, and what purpose does it serve?

Interlinear Text

כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	צָבָא וְ	הַתְּבוֹנִנִּי	וְקִרְאִי
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	of hosts	Consider	ye and call
	H559	H3068	H6635	H995	H7121
לְמִקְוֵי נָשִׁים	וְתִבְּאוּנָהּ:	וְאֵל	הַחֲכָמִים וְ	שְׁלַח־	
for the mourning women	that they may come	H413	for cunning	and send	
H6969	H935		H2450	H7971	
וְתִבְּאוּנָהּ:					
that they may come					
H935					

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 12:5 (Parallel theme): Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

2 Chronicles 35:25 (Parallel theme): And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah: and all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations to this day, and made them an ordinance in Israel: and, behold, they are written in the lamentations.