

Jeremiah 9:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.

Analysis

This verse reveals Jeremiah's conflicted desire: 'Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men.' The Hebrew malon orchim (מלון אורחים) is a travelers' lodge—a simple shelter in the desert. 'That I might leave my people, and go from them!' expresses desire to escape prophetic burden. The reason follows: 'for they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.' 'Adulterers' (mena'aphim, מנהפים) applies both literally (sexual immorality) and spiritually (idolatry). 'Assembly of treacherous' (atzeret bogedim, עצרת בוגדים) describes a gathering of traitors—those who betrayed covenant with God and faithfulness to one another. Jeremiah wishes to flee corrupt society for solitary wilderness—yet his calling prevents escape.

Historical Context

Desert lodging places served travelers crossing wilderness regions, providing minimal shelter. Jeremiah's desire for such isolation reflects the psychological burden of living among people whose sin he must constantly denounce. Moses similarly expressed exhaustion with his people (Numbers 11:11-15). The combination of spiritual adultery (idolatry) with literal sexual immorality characterized Canaanite fertility religion that had corrupted Judah.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does Jeremiah's desire to escape reveal about the emotional toll of ministry in a corrupt culture?
2. How do we balance the legitimate need for rest and solitude with our calling to remain engaged in difficult ministry?

Interlinear Text

אָרֶחָם יְמִינֵי קְרִי בְּמִדְבָּר יְתַגֵּן קְרִי מִלְוָן
H4310 Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men
H5414 H4057 H4411 H732

כָּלָם כִּי מְאֵפָה מִאֵלָכָה הַעַמִּים אֶת עַמִּים אֲזַבְּה
that I might leave my people H853 H1980 H853 H3588 H3605
H5800 H5971

בְּגִדְיִים: רָת עַז מִן אֶפְיָם
from them! for they be all adulterers an assembly of treacherous men
H5003 H6116 H898

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 23:10 (Parallel theme): For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force is not right.

Hosea 4:2 (Parallel theme): By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

Jeremiah 12:1 (Parallel theme): Righteous art thou, O LORD, when I plead with thee: yet let me talk with thee of thy judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? wherefore are all they happy that deal very treacherously?

Jeremiah 12:6 (Parallel theme): For even thy brethren, and the house of thy father, even they have dealt treacherously with thee; yea, they have called a multitude after thee: believe them not, though they speak fair words unto thee.

Hosea 7:4 (Parallel theme): They are all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, who ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened.

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