

Lamentations 2:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The Lord hath cast off his altar, he hath abhorred his sanctuary, he hath given up into the hand of the enemy the walls of her palaces; they have made a noise in the house of the LORD, as in the day of a solemn feast.

Analysis

The desecration of worship continues: "The Lord hath cast off his altar, he hath abhorred his sanctuary" (zanach Adonai mizbecho ni'er mikdasho, יתַח אֱלֹהִים מִזְבֵּחַ נִאֵר מִקְדָּשׁו). The verb zanach (יתַח, "cast off, reject") and na'ar (נִאֵר, "abhor, spurn") are strong terms expressing divine repudiation. God rejects His own altar and sanctuary—stitutions He ordained. This shows that religious forms divorced from heart obedience become detestable to God (Isaiah 1:11-15, Amos 5:21-23). The phrase "he hath given up into the hand of the enemy the walls of her palaces" (hisgir be-yad-oyev chomot armenotehe) shows God actively delivering Jerusalem's defenses to enemies. Most painful: "they have made a noise in the house of the LORD, as in the day of a solemn feast" (natnu kolam be-veit-YHWH ki-yom mo'ed). Enemy shouts in the temple replace worship songs. What should echo with praises to Yahweh now rings with pagan victory cries. The ultimate desecration.

Historical Context

The altar and sanctuary represented the heart of Israel's worship system. The bronze altar in the temple courtyard (1 Kings 8:64) was where daily sacrifices were offered morning and evening (Exodus 29:38-42). The sanctuary (mikdash) encompassed the Holy Place and Most Holy Place. For God to 'cast off' these meant covenant relationship was broken. Ezekiel 10:18-19 describes God's glory

departing the temple before its destruction. When Babylonian soldiers entered, they found it already abandoned by God's presence. The 'noise' of enemies in God's house contrasts with proper temple worship—Levitical singing, priestly blessings, worshipers' prayers. Instead, Psalm 74:4 laments: 'Thine enemies roar in the midst of thy congregations.' The phrase 'as in the day of a solemn feast' bitterly ironizes: festival days brought joyful noise to God's house, but now enemy shouts replace celebratory worship.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God casting off His own altar demonstrate that external religious observance means nothing without heart obedience?
2. What parallels exist between God abhorring the Jerusalem sanctuary and Jesus pronouncing 'your house is left desolate' (Matthew 23:38)?
3. In what ways might our worship become mere 'noise' to God when divorced from justice, mercy, and humility (Micah 6:6-8)?

Interlinear Text

הָסִיר	מִזְבֵּחַ	וְ	נָאָר	מִזְבֵּחַ	אָדָן	וְ	נָאָר
hath cast off	The Lord		his altar	he hath abhorred	his sanctuary	he hath given up	
H2186	H136		H4196	H5010	H4720		H5462
בַּיד	בְּיֹד		אֹוֹב	חֹמֶת	יְבָאָה	אַל	נָתַן
into the hand	of the enemy		the walls	of her palaces	a noise	they have made	
H3027	H341		H2346	H759	H6963		H5414
בָּבִית	בְּיֹם		כִּי	מִזְבֵּחַ	וְ	וְ	וְ
in the house	of the LORD		as in the day	of a solemn feast			
H1004	H3068		H3117	H4150			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 24:21 (Temple): Speak unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will profane my sanctuary, the excellency of your strength, the desire of your eyes, and that which your soul pitith; and your sons and your daughters whom ye have left shall fall by the sword.

Jeremiah 52:13 (References Lord): And burned the house of the LORD, and the king's house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, and all the houses of the great men, burned he with fire:

Amos 2:5 (Parallel theme): But I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem.

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