

Micah 7:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then she that is mine enemy shall see it, and shame shall cover her which said unto me, Where is the LORD thy God? mine eyes shall behold her: now shall she be trodden down as the mire of the streets.

Analysis

Then she that is mine enemy shall see it, and shame shall cover her (vetere oyevti bushah tekhassehah, בָּשָׁה תְּכַסֵּהָ אֹבֶה). The "enemy" personified as female likely represents hostile nations (Assyria, Babylon, Edom) who mocked Israel during their discipline. Bushah (בָּשָׁה, "shame") will "cover" them—the very humiliation they inflicted on Israel will fall upon them. This demonstrates measure-for-measure justice: those who shamed God's people will themselves be shamed.

Which said unto me, Where is the LORD thy God? (ha'omerah elay ayyeh YHWH Elohayik, הָאֹמֵר אֲלֵיכָם אָהָן אֱלֹהֵיכֶם). This taunt appears throughout Scripture when God's people suffer—enemies mock their faith, questioning God's existence or power (Psalm 42:3, 10; 79:10; 115:2; Joel 2:17). During exile, pagan nations scorned Israel: "Where is your God who promised to protect you?" Such mockery strikes at the heart of covenant faith.

Mine eyes shall behold her: now shall she be trodden down as the mire of the streets (terenah enay bah attah tiyyeh lemirmas kechomot chutzot, תְּרֵנָה עֵינָי בָּה אַתָּה תִּיְהֶה לְמִרְמָס כְּחֻזָּת חֻצּוֹת). Israel will witness their oppressor's downfall—trampled like street mud. This was literally fulfilled when Assyria (destroyed 612 BC) and Babylon (destroyed 539 BC) fell. It demonstrates that God vindicates His people and judges their mockers. Ultimately, all who mock Christ and His church will face judgment (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10).

Historical Context

Throughout Israel's history, enemies mocked their faith during times of defeat or exile. When Jerusalem fell to Babylon (586 BC), Edomites gloated (Psalm 137:7; Obadiah 1:12-14). Babylonians taunted Jewish exiles (Psalm 137:3). Yet God promised reversal: those who mocked would be judged, and Israel would witness it. This was fulfilled when Persia conquered Babylon (539 BC), allowing Jewish return (Ezra 1:1-4). The principle extends to all history: God allows His people to suffer temporarily but ultimately vindicates them and judges their oppressors. For the church, this promises that though we face mockery and persecution now, Christ will return to judge our enemies and vindicate us (Revelation 19:11-21).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How should believers respond to the taunt 'Where is your God?' during times of suffering or apparent defeat?
2. What does God's promise to shame those who shamed His people teach about His covenant loyalty?
3. How does the certainty of ultimate vindication help endure present mockery and persecution?

Interlinear Text

בָּאָמַרְתְּ הָ בָּשָׁשׁ הַ וְתַּכְסֵשׁ בָּ אַיִלְתְּרָא יְנָה
shall behold Then she that is mine enemy
H7200 H341 H3680 H955 H559

תְּרָא יְנָה אַיִלְתְּרָא יְנָה עַיִנְיָה
unto me Where is the LORD thy God mine eyes shall behold
H413 H346 H3068 H430 H5869 H7200

כְּסֵת יְתָרָם סָלְמָה עַפְתָּה הַתְּרָא הַעֲפָתָה
her now shall she be trodden down as the mire
H0 H6258 H1961 H4823 H2916

חוֹצֹתָן:
of the streets
H2351

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 10:5 (References Lord): And they shall be as mighty men, which tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the LORD is with them, and the riders on horses shall be confounded.

Psalms 35:26 (Parallel theme): Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me.

Psalms 18:42 (Parallel theme): Then did I beat them small as the dust before the wind: I did cast them out as the dirt in the streets.

Psalms 42:10 (References God): As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is thy God?

Joel 2:17 (References God): Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

2 Samuel 22:43 (Parallel theme): Then did I beat them as small as the dust of the earth, I did stamp them as the mire of the street, and did spread them abroad.

Revelation 18:20 (References God): Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

Psalms 79:10 (References God): Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is their God? let him be known among the heathen in our sight by the revenging of the blood of thy servants which is shed.

Jeremiah 51:51 (References Lord): We are confounded, because we have heard reproach: shame hath covered our faces: for strangers are come into the sanctuaries of the LORD'S house.

Micah 4:11 (Parallel theme): Now also many nations are gathered against thee, that say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion.