

Obadiah 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress.

Analysis

God condemns Edom's attitudes during Jerusalem's fall: "But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress." The repetition "thou shouldest not" emphasizes moral obligation violated. "Looked on"—gloating observation. "Rejoiced"—taking pleasure in others' suffering. "Spoken proudly"—mocking distress. Proverbs 24:17-18 warns: "Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth... lest the LORD see it, and it displease him." Taking pleasure in others' calamity, especially covenant relatives', constitutes serious sin. Christ commands loving enemies (Matthew 5:43-48), weeping with those who weep (Romans 12:15).

Historical Context

Edom's response to Jerusalem's destruction demonstrated not just failure to help but active hostility and celebration. This pattern repeats in church history when professing Christians celebrate others' suffering rather than showing compassion. The Pharisee thanking God he's not like the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14) exemplifies similar pride. God resists such arrogance.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Do you secretly (or openly) rejoice when others you dislike face difficulties?
2. How does Christ's command to love enemies challenge natural human responses to others' suffering?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵל	תְּרֵא	בַּיּוֹם	אֶחָד יְמִין	בַּיּוֹם
H408	But thou shouldest not have looked	in the day	of thy brother	in the day

וְהַזִּקְנָהִים
לְבָנָי יְהוּדָה
תְּשַׁמֵּחַ
וְאֶל נָכֵר וְ

בְּ יֹמָם	תַּהֲזֵל	אֲבָתֶם	בְּיֹם
in the day	of their destruction	H408	proudly
H3117	H6	H1431	neither shouldest thou have spoken

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 35:15 (Parallel theme): As thou didst rejoice at the inheritance of the house of Israel, because it was desolate, so will I do unto thee: thou shalt be desolate, O mount Seir, and all Idumea, even all of it: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

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.

Proverbs 17:5 (Parallel theme): Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.

1 Samuel 2:3 (Parallel theme): Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

2 Peter 2:18 (Parallel theme): For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

Psalms 22:17 (Parallel theme): I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me.

Psalms 37:13 (Parallel theme): The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

Psalms 31:18 (Parallel theme): Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.

Job 31:29 (Parallel theme): If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him:

Jude 1:16 (Parallel theme): These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.