

2 Chronicles 36:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

Analysis

The tragic climax of Israel's rebellion: 'But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.' Progressive hardening - mocking messengers, despising words, misusing prophets - led to the point of 'no remedy' (ein marpe - no healing). This doesn't mean God couldn't forgive but that the nation had passed the point where repentance was possible. The phrase 'wrath arose' depicts divine patience exhausted by persistent covenant violation. This sobering warning appears in Hebrews 6:4-6 about those who persistently reject truth. Yet God's wrath, even in exile, served redemptive purposes, producing a remnant.

Historical Context

Babylon's destruction of Jerusalem and exile (586 BCE) resulted from generations of covenant unfaithfulness. The 'no remedy' point came despite Jeremiah's final warnings (Jeremiah 7, 26). Yet even this judgment preserved a remnant and prepared for restoration.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What signs might indicate someone is approaching the dangerous 'no remedy' point through persistent rejection of truth?
2. How should warnings about despising God's Word motivate reverence for Scripture and responsiveness to conviction?

Interlinear Text

וְהִי וְ	מַלְעָבִים	בְּמַלְאָכָי	הָאֱלֹהִים	וּבוֹזִים	דְּבָרָיו
H1961	But they mocked	the messengers	of God	and despised	his words
	H3931	H4397	H430	H959	H1697
וּמִתְעַתְּעוּ	בְּנִבְאָיו	עַד	עָלָה	חַמַּת	יְהוָה
and misused	his prophets	H5704	arose	until the wrath	of the LORD
H8591	H5030		H5927	H2534	H3068
בְּעַמּוֹ	עַד	לֹא יָן	מִרְפָּא:		
against his people	H5704	H369	till there was no remedy		
H5971			H4832		

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 30:10 (Parallel theme): So the posts passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulun: but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them.

Psalms 74:1 (References God): O God, why hast thou cast us off for ever? why doth thine anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture?

Proverbs 6:15 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.

Jeremiah 32:3 (Prophecy): For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, Wherefore dost thou prophesy, and say, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it;

1 Thessalonians 4:8 (References God): He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

Psalms 35:16 (Parallel theme): With hypocritical mockers in feasts, they gnashed upon me with their teeth.

Proverbs 29:1 (Parallel theme): He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Ezra 5:12 (Judgment): But after that our fathers had provoked the God of heaven unto wrath, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house, and carried the people away into Babylon.