

Deuteronomy 7:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.

Analysis

God's righteous judgment balances His covenant mercy. 'Repayeth them that hate him to their face' (meshalleim lesan'av el-panav) means swift, direct, personal judgment. The phrase 'to their face' emphasizes that God's justice is neither delayed nor indirect—He confronts rebellion openly. 'He will not be slack' (lo ye'acher) means God doesn't procrastinate in judgment. This vindicates God's holy character—He cannot overlook sin. The Hebrew parallelism (repeating 'to their face' and 'repay') emphasizes certainty and immediacy. This is the flip side of election: those who persist in hating God receive judgment. Romans 2:5-6 affirms this principle: God 'will render to every man according to his deeds.'

Historical Context

Israel's history demonstrates this principle repeatedly. Those who 'hated' God (rebelled against His covenant) faced immediate judgment: Korah's rebellion (Numbers 16), Achan's theft (Joshua 7), Uzzah's irreverence (2 Samuel 6:7). The Canaanite nations received judgment 'to their face' through Israel's conquest. The northern kingdom's persistent idolatry led to Assyrian exile (722 BC); Judah's apostasy resulted in Babylonian captivity (586 BC). God's judgment, though patient, arrives with certainty.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's certain judgment against sin deepen your appreciation for Christ bearing that judgment for you?
2. What attitudes or actions in your life might indicate 'hating God' rather than loving Him?
3. How should God's immediate judgment of rebellion shape your urgency in repentance and obedience?

Interlinear Text

וְשִׁלַּם	לָשׁוֹן אֵל	אֵל	פָּנָיו	לְהָאָבִיד וְ	לֹא
And repayeth	them that hate	H413	him to his face	to destroy	H3808
H7999	H8130		H6440	H6	
וְאֵחֶר	לָשׁוֹן אֵל	אֵל	פָּנָיו	וְשִׁלַּם	לְוֵ:
them he will not be slack	them that hate	H413	him to his face	And repayeth	H0
H309	H8130		H6440	H7999	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 59:18 (Parallel theme): According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompence to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompence.

Romans 12:19 (Parallel theme): Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Nahum 1:2 (Parallel theme): God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

Proverbs 11:31 (Parallel theme): Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.

Exodus 20:5 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Deuteronomy 7:9 (Parallel theme): Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

Deuteronomy 32:35 (Parallel theme): To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

Deuteronomy 32:25 (Parallel theme): The sword without, and terror within, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling also with the man of gray hairs.