

Ezekiel 11:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

Analysis

Amidst judgment oracles, God promises future restoration: 'I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh.' The 'one heart' (leb echad, לֵב אֶחָד) represents unified devotion replacing divided loyalty. The 'new spirit' (ruach chadashah, רוּחַ חֲדָשָׁה) anticipates the fuller revelation in Ezekiel 36:26-27 of God's Spirit dwelling within believers. The contrast between 'stony heart' (leb haeben, לֵב הָאֵבֶן) and 'heart of flesh' (leb basar, לֵב בָּשָׂר) depicts transformation from hard, unresponsive insensitivity to soft, responsive obedience. This isn't mere moral improvement but divine heart transplant—God Himself performs the surgery, removing what's dead and implanting what's alive. This promise finds fulfillment in the new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34) and Christian conversion through the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:3-6).

Historical Context

The promise comes immediately after judgment pronouncement (11:1-13), showing God's redemptive purposes endure despite necessary discipline. For exiles facing decades in Babylon with Jerusalem soon to be destroyed (586 BC), this promise provided essential hope—exile isn't the end of God's covenant purposes. The heart language recalls Deuteronomy's call to circumcise the heart (Deuteronomy 10:16, 30:6), showing that external covenant signs must be matched by internal transformation. God promises to do what the law commanded but people couldn't

accomplish on their own. This anticipated the new covenant where God's law would be written on hearts, not just stone tablets (Jeremiah 31:33).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How have you experienced God's transforming work replacing your stony, resistant heart with a responsive, flesh heart?
2. What areas of hardness in your heart need God's supernatural heart transplant surgery?

Interlinear Text

וְנָתַתִּי י	לֵב לָהֶם	אֶחָד ד	רוּחַ ו	חָדָשׁ ה	וְנָתַתִּי י
And I will give	H0	heart	them one	spirit	a new
H5414		H3820	H259	H7307	H2319
					And I will give
					H5414
בְּקִרְבְּךָ מ	וְהִסְרֹתִי י	לֵב ב	הָאֶבֶן	בָּשָׂר:	וְנָתַתִּי י
within	you and I will take	heart	the stony	of flesh	And I will give
H7130	H5493	H3820	H68	H1320	H5414
מ	לֵב ב	בָּשָׂר:			
H0	heart	of flesh			
	H3820	H1320			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 31:33 (Parallel theme): But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Psalms 51:10 (Spirit): Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Jeremiah 24:7 (Parallel theme): And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

2 Corinthians 3:3 (Spirit): Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Deuteronomy 30:6 (Parallel theme): And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

Zechariah 7:12 (Spirit): Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.

Ezekiel 18:31 (Spirit): Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

2 Corinthians 5:17 (Parallel theme): Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

John 14:26 (Spirit): But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Galatians 6:15 (Parallel theme): For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

